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# ARAB TIMES



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1990/RAJAB 21, 1410 AH

20 PAGES 150 FRS



An engine of the Indian Airlines Airbus sits close to the tail section after the crash.  
(Reuter wirephoto)



The remains of the Indian Airlines Airbus.  
(Reuter wirephoto)



Fire brigade personnel try to control the fire of the Airbus at Bangalore airport.  
(Reuter wirephoto)

# Aoun captures LF stronghold

Death cries mingle with gunfire in devastated Beirut

**BEIRUT**, Feb 16, (Agencies): East Beirut shook to widespread shelling today and wounded civilians cried for help from apartment blocks set on fire by the bloodiest battle of the inter-Christian war.

General Michel Aoun claimed to have scored a major victory over the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, saying he had seized their stronghold of Ain Al-Roumanieh after two days of ferocious tank and artillery battles.

Aoun's troops were combing the area for militiamen, whose command was negotiating the terms of their surrender to Aoun's forces, the sources said.

The militiamen wanted to hold on to their weapons, while Gen. Aoun insisted that they give up with their hands behind their heads, "one source said.

The onslaught was the third against LF strongholds since fighting erupted on Jan 31 when Aoun, seeking sole control of the Christian enclave, ordered the militia to disband.

The military operation is now in the stage of cleaning after the main military operation," Aoun said in a radio broadcast after fighting died down in Ain Al-Roumanieh.

"There are no more problems in Ain Al-Roumanieh ... I can say it has been liberated from militia pressure and liberated from oppression which it has been subject to."

The loss of the district would be a major blow for the 10,000-strong LF. Aoun's forces last week overran an LF base at Dibayeh north of Beirut and fought the militia to a standstill on Qubat ridge overlooking the capital.

As dust fell today tank, artillery and machinegun fire broke out over the areas of East Beirut, starting fires in high-rise blocks.

Aoun's forces shelled two of the last areas controlled by the LF in East Beirut, Dora and Ashrafieh, while the militia fired on Aoun's positions in Yarze, Baabda and Hazmieh.

Hospitals, desperately short of blood, oxygen and bandages, crammed the wounded into emergency basement wards for safety.

Many casualties could not be rescued from the ruins of 10-storey apartment blocks in Ain Al-Roumanieh, an area of about nine square km (5.5 sq miles) which once housed 50,000 people.

"We could hear them screaming, but no one could help them and I don't know what happened to them," said George Nasir, 28, being treated in Hayek hospital for strapped wounds to his legs.

Radio stations called appeals for rescue from people telephoning from burning buildings.

Aoun's artillery emplacements, targeting another stronghold of Lebanese Forces also hit the mountain-top Notre Dame orphanage in Harissa, north of Beirut.

The orphanage called on relatives to evict the orphans "as soon as possible because we cannot continue providing them with our services."



Facing each other

Soldiers and residents of the capital of Soviet Tajikistan face each other in the downtown area of Dushanbe where a state of emergency and curfew were declared as tension there continues. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Quit, Tajiks ask leaders

Armenians mutilated

**MOSCOW**, Feb 16, (Agencies): Tajik Communist Party officials today rejected offers by the republic's leaders to resign, and the legislature formed a committee to investigate more than a dozen deaths in ethnic rioting.

Thousands of protesters yesterday defied a ban on demonstrations to demand the resignations of leaders in their Soviet Asian republic. On Wednesday, the party chief, premier and president offered to resign, but said they could not quit until the party and local Parliament released them.

The Tajik party Central Committee declined to accept the offers and decided to keep the current leadership, said Anatoly Larenok, a correspondent for the national newspaper Vozdushny transport, Russian for air transport.

Meanwhile, twelve mutilated corpses, 11 of them Armenians from a home for invalids, have been found in a sand pit in Soviet Azerbaijan, the official news agency Tass said today.

Tass did not say who was suspected of the killings. But the corpses — 11 women and one man — appeared to be victims of an ethnic conflict between Armenians and Azerbaijanis which has killed hundreds over the past two years.

Eleven were identified as handicapped Armenians who disappeared from a home for invalids

UN urged to expel Tehran

**LONDON**, Feb 16, (Reuters): More than 200 British members of Parliament urged the United Nations today to expel Iran for what they called repressive and terrorist policies.

The group, from all of Britain's main political parties, urged UN recognition of the Iraq-based National Council of Resistance of Iran, the exiled opposition led by Massoud Rajavi.

A statement by the 248 politicians said the renewed death threat against British author Salman Rushdie by Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei proved "that terrorism is an inherent characteristic of the ruling regime in Iran."

The British politicians appeared to be following the lead of parliamentarians in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg who signed a similar petition on Feb 2.

They said the death threat against Rushdie, accused of blaspheming against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses," was "an extension of the domestic repression in Iran which has to date brought about 90,000 political executions."

"The situations during the aggravation of events were complex. For example, there were many bullet wounds. But so far it's not known who was shooting and from where," Tugay told the army newspaper Red Star.

In another sign of a split at the top, Interior Minister Mamadov Navzhanov called on party and government officials "to come out to the people and not hide in their offices."

Islamic fundamentalists mobbed a bus and attacked Tajik girls because their heads were uncovered, and protesters demanded a ban on the sale of pork in the mainly Sunni Muslim republic, news reports said.

## Weather

FAJR weather with slight to moderate north westerly wind.  
State of sea: Moderate  
High water: 3.00 am, 3.30 pm  
Low water: 7.30 am, 10.00 pm  
Sunrise: 6.34 am  
Sunset: 5.52 pm  
Maximum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 20°C 68°F  
Abu Dhabi: 19°C 66°F  
Al Ain: 19°C 65°F  
Muscat: 17°C 64°F  
Fujairah: 17°C 63°F  
Maximum temperatures expected:  
Kuwait: 21°C 70°F  
Abu Dhabi: 20°C 68°F  
Fujairah: 20°C 68°F  
Muscat: 18°C 65°F  
Al Ain: 18°C 65°F  
Fujairah: 18°C 65°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 85 per cent  
Abu Dhabi: 88 per cent  
Fujairah: 84 per cent

## Black box to be analysed abroad IA chairman quits

**NEW DELHI**, Feb 16, (Agencies): The chairman of beleaguered Indian Airlines resigned today, saying he accepted responsibility for a recent plane crash in southern India that killed 91 people.

Prime Minister V.P. Singh said he "reluctantly" accepted the resignation of R.K. Prasad and asked the joint secretary of the Civil Aviation Ministry, P.C. Sen, to take over as managing director of the government-owned domestic carrier.

Prasad joined Indian Airlines in 1956 and took over as chairman and managing director last April.

The airline has been dogged for years by complaints of frequent schedule delays and allegations of mismanagement, poor morale among staff, inadequate supervision and training of pilots and poor maintenance of planes.

Details of Prasad's resignation were not released by the government, except that he had accepted "moral responsibility" for the crash.

A three-month-old Indian Airlines Airbus 320 crashed on Wednesday about 50 yards (metres) short of the airport runway in Bangalore. The airline said 146 people were on the hour-long flight from Bombay and 55 survived.

The government has ordered an investigation into the cause of the crash. The weather was clear and there were no signs of an emergency on board, officials said.

Some Indian newspapers have speculated the crash of the sophisticated aircraft may have occurred because the pilot tried to change the mode of control from computer to manual.

Others reports have suggested the plane's instruments may have indicated the wrong height, leading the pilot to lower the plane earlier than he should have. Both the pilot and the co-pilot died in the crash.

The twin-engined, narrow-bodied jet is the first civilian airliner with a fully-computerized flight control system.

Airline Minister Arif Mohammed Khan said the plane's "black box," the digital flight data

recorder that logs all changes in altitude, speed and direction, would be sent abroad for analysis. He refused to say where it would be sent. But he said the recorder would not be sent to France, or to any other country involved in the consortium which built it.

The plane is manufactured by Airbus Industrie, a European consortium based in France. Airbus sent a team of experts to Bangalore to help in the investigation.

At least 36 foreigners were on the flight, officials said. American, Japanese, West German, British, Sudanese, Somalian and French nationals were on the plane but the airline did not give complete details of nationalities.

Wednesday's crash is the second accident involving an Airbus 320 and the first of an Airbus 320 in commercial service.

Britain, West Germany and Spain as well as

## List of killed - Page 2

France are partners in Airbus Industrie, the plane's builder, and aviation experts said Khan's decision left the United States as the most likely destination of the recorder.

Indian officials said the reason for not sending the recorder to any consortium member was to reassure Indian public opinion that everything was being done to find the cause of the crash impartially.

Preliminary reports on the crash show similarities to an accident involving another model in 1988, a top Indian official said today.

Probir Sen, director-general of Indian Civil Aviation, said both planes were flown by highly experienced pilots.

"Also, in both cases, the aircraft suffered a sudden loss of height," he said in an interview.

Sen said India was looking for a country other than France to decode the flight data recorder, which should yield clues to the cause of Wednesday's crash, because that was where the aircraft was assembled.

## Health charges

### Insurance proposed

By Nash' Al Agha

THE Ministry of Health has concluded that it is impossible to continue with the free medical health services and it is now imperative that the health insurance scheme be introduced.

Speaking to the Seyassah, Planning Minister and acting Public Health Minister, Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said that the nineties will witness both a qualitative and quantum leap in the level of medical services provided by the state and these could only be effectively translated through the individual participation and involvement of the beneficiaries of these services.

Commenting on the leading medical issue AIDS, the official said that no full-fledged AIDS cases have been discovered in the country.

## Law may stop Aids deportation

By Diana Abou Haidar

INDIVIDUALS living and working in Kuwait who test positive for the AIDS virus will not be deported, according to the new law on AIDS that is expected to be passed by the Cabinet in a few weeks, according to Dr Hussain Al Momen, head of the Kuwait Third International Conference on AIDS press committee.

Momen said that 55 cases of infection with the virus have been identified in Kuwait. Seven of those were Kuwaitis and the rest were non-Kuwaitis.

■ Pakistan yesterday rejected as "preposterous" claims it is fomenting a militant secessionist movement in India's troubled Jammu-Kashmir.

Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmed showed reporters a 26-page dossier of Indian charges against Pakistan and said: "This document is preposterous, ridiculous and a tissue of lies."

Authorities had imposed an all-day curfew every Friday for the last two months because they feared anti-India speeches in mosques could incite demonstrations. At least 50,000 people congregate for prayers at the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in the city of one million people.

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# Tehran blasts West on Rushdie

NICOSIA, Feb 16, (Agencies): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani today called the order to kill author Salman Rushdie an exclusively Islamic issue and condemned the uproar it sparked, Tehran radio reported.

"The Imam's sentence on the apostate writer of the 'The Satanic Verses' is an opinion of Islamic expertise and there is no need for the kind of ruckus that has been raised by the enemies of Islam," Rafsanjani said in a sermon.

While radical Iranian leaders have been trying to get media attention by highlighting the Rushdie affair for the past week, Rafsanjani appeared to be trying to play it down.

"If they (the West) deal with the issue logically, the result will be that the Imam's sentence will be regarded as an issue of Islamic expertise, not anything else."

"If an expert offers his opinion about an issue, it should not need to (to produce) such a scandal," the radio quoted Rafsanjani as saying in his sermon on the Tehran University campus.

He said the reason for the media attention over the Rushdie affair was that the West wants "to accuse Islam of being against free speech."

"The contents of 'The Satanic Verses' are not just those of a normal book, which can be related to freedom of speech," the radio quoted him as saying.

"This blasphemous book is an insult attack on Islamic sanctities, and the penalty for an offensive, abusive person is different from that for a reasonable, logical person," he said.

Militant Iranian students announced yesterday they would march to the British mission in Tehran next Sunday to reaffirm Iran's death order against Rushdie.

An organisation of Muslim university students called on people to join the march "to voice their hatred towards global arrogance led by the United States and the ominous conspiracies of Britain," Iran's Ira news agency reported.

"Self-sacrificing guardians are ready to materialise the wish of world's Muslims once Rushdie emerges from his hideout," Mahmoud Mirlohi, deputy commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Committee—a revolutionary police force—said in an interview published in the daily Abar newspaper.

Official and press comments stressed the death order, issued by Khomeini on Feb 14, 1989, could not be lifted even if Rushdie repented.

"Like a mother-cat carrying her kittens between her teeth, British police guards take Rushdie from one hotel to another," Attaolah Mohajerani, vice-president for cultural affairs, said on Tehran radio.

Abrar labelled Rushdie "the most unfortunate victim of British foreign policy in 1989."

Jomhour Eslami daily, saying that Rushdie affair had dragged on for a year only because of London's intransigence, urged the British government to hand over the author and apologise to Muslims.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to the Organisation of Islamic Conference urging Muslim nations to close ranks against what he termed the West's conspiracies against Islam.

# Most bodies charred

52 of the 90 Indian Airlines disaster victims identified

By Thomas Abraham  
Arab Times correspondent

on the bodies wrapped in white sheets.

Most bodies were charred beyond recognition. Relatives were seen moving from body to body, desperately trying to identify their near and dear ones.

By Thursday night, about 52 of the 90 victims had been identified. All the unidentified bodies will be cremated here in a mass funeral Sunday afternoon. The other bodies are being handed

over in coffins to relatives and arrangements being made to take them to their home towns.

Latest information available Thursday said there were about 30 foreigners on the ill-fated aircraft.

Relatives of the victims started arriving in Bangalore on Wednesday night, itself in two scheduled and one special flight.

At the hospital, this correspondent saw most people reaching

there straight from the airport, with their baggage still with them. Some people from abroad were also expected soon.

Inside the morgue it was a near hopeless situation. The authorities had set up a counter displaying possessions found on the victims to help in the identification.

"My son was taller," R.S. Sujir of Bangalore could be heard crying. An engineer in the Indian

Telephone Industries (ITI) Sujir had lost his wife, Jamuna, a journalist with Bombay-based Liana group of publications, and his two year-old son.

"Also, my son's ears were bigger," he said. Sujir had been shown the body of a toddler but was quite certain it was not his son, Ashwin.

Sujir told this correspondent that he had talked to his wife on the telephone the previous day for nearly 40 minutes. "I also talked to my son. He asked me to come to the airport and pick him up in the car," he said. Like many others, Sujir was waiting outside the arrival lounge for the aircraft to land when they heard a loud noise. It is only some 20 minutes later that they had their worst fears confirmed.

When informed that there would be a mass funeral of all unidentified bodies Sunday, Sujir immediately said, "I will attend that."

Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan visited the mortuary Thursday morning and consoled some of the relatives. As he listened to their tales of agony, Khan himself broke down on occasions.

Many relatives and friends had been making repeated trips to the halls, taking a second and third look at the bodies.

"Mere ko 16 M teek lagta hai" (I think body with number 16 M is the right one), one man was heard telling another.

All of them, some wailing, others just grim-faced, filed past the bodies, wading through the water melting from the ice-slabs kept in the hall. Two nurses were on hand, ready to assist in the identification of bodies through their dental history. Some confusion arose when the same body was claimed by more than one person.

Among those who turned up at the hospital were friends of the London-based Gujarati family of the Vaghans, who perished in the crash. The friends were heard telling the airline officials that relatives of the Vaghans would be reaching Bangalore later. They had already seen the bodies and tentatively identified them. "But the final identification will be made by the family. Till then, please do not hand over these bodies to anyone else," they pleaded apparently, the same bodies had been claimed by someone else also. The Vaghans belonged to the Bhuj area of Gujarat.

The victims also included an employee of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, R.P. Srivastava. Another victim was 47-year-old Ashok Birla, the prominent industrialist, who was chairman of Birla Yamaha, Birla 3M and Dagger Forst, among other companies. His wife and daughter were also killed.

Though Bangalore is a major aviation centre, this was the first air crash in the city. The fire brigade, the hospitals, the police, the ground staff of Indian Airlines and others are reported to have responded to the crisis magnificently.

List of those reported killed in the Bangalore crash: R. Balachander, R. Barboza, C.M. Bell, A.V. Birla, Ms S. Birla, A. Chak, S.J. Chabria, Ms H.N. Gandhi, P.C. Jain, J. Joshiwala, M.S. Mehta, S.D. Munshi, Ms P.M. Nayak, P.M. Nayak, Paramal, H.M. Paipuri, H.M. Patel, Ms S. Prema, Ms V.S. Rajanna, Shobat, D. Shiroff, N. Singh, Ms B.P. Singh, H. Vihov, A. Dinesh, Ms Rajalakshmy (air hostess), B.K. Govindaraj, Alkamra, Ms J. Bell, K.N. Bhalla, Ms C. Bhattacharya, Ms M. Bhattacharya, B.N. Bhat, Chandrashekhar, A.A. Dean, Tom D'Sa, Alex Fromee, N. Gossalya, C. Gracia, Tirath Gupta, H. Hager, I. Haque, S. Hanish, Horst Howell, Ms S. Howell, Ms Jana Yasmin, and others. Ms L. Jumpanam, P. Kothiyal, M. V. Kabra, M. Kakkar, K. P. Krishnam, Ms K. Krishnan, V. Kulasekaran, R. Madan, Ms V. Maje, P. Mahadevan, O.P. Marla, Ms A. Moss, V.R. Nagarajan, Olayen, Ms Oreyen, P. Rajkumar, R. Randhawa, Rangarajan, Shah, S.C. Shah, V.R. Shellar, R. Shiraz, Srinivasan, R.P. Srivastava, Ms Jamuna Sumit, Thambi, Jumjunwan, S. Ulluk, Ms Ulluk, D.R. Vaghani, P.D. Vaghani, K.D. Vaghani, T.D. Vaghani, A. Waled, three unidentified infants, Capt. Gopnikar, C. Capt. Cyril Fernandes, Ms Mary Chak (airhostess).

**Gas leak kills 4, hurts 90**

CALCUTTA, Feb 16, (AP): Chlorine gas leaked from a small paint factory early today, killing four people, and injuring about 90 others living in a nearby shantytown, police said.

The dead included a three-year-old girl, her eight-year-old brother and their 35-year-old father, and a worker at the factory, located in one of the city's most densely populated and poorest neighbourhoods, police said.

At least 20 of the injured were hospitalised, many in serious condition, said police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.



Anxious relatives of passengers of the Indian Airlines Airbus crash near Bangalore wait for news of survivors at Bombay's Santa Cruz airport. (Reuter wirephoto)



Coffins containing the bodies of some of the 90 people killed in the Bangalore plane crash arrive at Bombay airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Bangla danger

## Global warming

DHAKA, Feb 16, (Reuters): More than 15 percent of Bangladesh's total land area will disappear under water in the next 60 years due to the global warming trend known as the greenhouse effect, a leading environmental expert said.

Fashuddin Mahmud, former planning minister, told a seminar on Wednesday: "The sea will swell by up to one metre by the year 2050 due to the greenhouse effect inundating 15 per cent of Bangladesh, mainly coastal areas."

The green house effect and damage to the ozone layer will also send saline water down

the country's vast network of rivers, changing cropping patterns and causing foodgrain losses.

Mahtab, who recently completed a study on the subject, suggested massive forestation along the country's coast and building of flood barriers to overcome salinity problems.

Bangladesh, which holds a population of 110 million crammed into 55,600 square miles (144,000 sq km), last month proposed that the United Nations set up a committee in Dhaka representing all countries likely to be affected by global warming.

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## INTERNATIONAL

**Paula's  
Opposites  
Attract  
still tops**

NEW YORK, Feb 16, (AP): Paula Abdul stayed on Wednesday for the second week in a row at the top of the pop singles record chart in the United States with her hit "Opposites Attract."

"Two to make it right" by Seduction topped up two notches to second position on the Cash Box magazine chart. "Janie's Got A Gun" by Arrowsmith climbed from fifth to third spot.

Last week's number two hit, "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You" by Michael Bolton, slipped to fourth, while Rod Stewart's "Down with Love" topped from third to fifth.

Soaring up the top list were "Dangerous" by Roxette, up from 13th to 2nd, and "What Kind of Man Would I Be" by Chicago, up from 12th to 4th.

Two other newcomers to the list were "Price In Our Time" by Eddie Money, up from 11th to 8th, and "Tell Me Why" by Expose, up from 14th to 9th.

As for the Country and Western singles, "Heartbreak Hurricane" by Ricky Skaggs made it to number one on the Cash Box magazine chart. Second was Eddie Rabbitt's "On Second Thought," and "Overnight Success" by George Strait was third.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's nominees in brackets:

1. (1) Opposites Attract — Paula Abdul (Virginia).  
2. (2) Two To Make It Right — Seduction (Vendetta-A and M).

3. (3) Janie's Got A Gun — Arrowsmith (Geffen).

4. (4) How Am I Supposed to Live Without You — Michael Bolton (Columbia).

5. (5) Dangerous — Roxette (EMI).

6. (6) What Kind of Man Would I Be — Chicago (Roxette).

7. (7) Remember You — Skid Row (Atlantic).

8. (8) Price In Our Time — Eddie Money (Columbia).

9. (9) Tell Me Why — Expose (Arista).

10. (10) Downtown Train — Rod Stewart (Warner Brothers).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Heartbreak Hurricane — Ricky Skaggs (Epic).

2. (2) On Second Thought — Eddie Rabbitt (Universal).

3. (3) Overnight Success — George Strait (MCA).

4. (4) Little Girl — Reba McEntire (MCA).

5. (5) No Matter How High — The Oak Ridge Boys (MCA).

6. (6) Fast Moving Train — Reba McEntire (RCA).

7. (7) Chains — Petty Loveless (MCA).

8. (8) Skin' My Father In Me — Paul Overstreet (RCA).

9. (9) Southern Star — Alabama (RCA).

10. (10) Quittin' Time — Mary Chapin Carpenter (Columbia).

**UK Harrods to shut fur salon**

LONDON, Feb 16, (AP): Citing a sharp decline in sales, Harrods is closing its fur salon which has sold mink to the rich and famous for nearly a century.

The world renowned department store said Wednesday sales have dropped by 40 per cent over the last four years, but it denied caving in to pressure from animal rights groups.

The salon, whose concession is held by fur retailer Grosvenor Canards, will close on April 21, following a decision 13 months ago by Harrods' parent company, House of Fraser PLC, to end fur sales at its other 62 stores.

According to government figures cited by Harrods, sales of Britain's biggest fur traders totalled 11 million pounds (\$19 million) in the first half of 1989, compared with 80 million (\$130 million) in all of 1984.

**Five receive St Valentine's 'A Year of Love' award**

TERNI, Italy, Feb 16, (AP): A woman who waged a two-year campaign to free her kidnapped son and a Lebanese militia fighter who turned to charity work were among five people who received awards from the city that calls itself St. Valentine's hometown.

The government of Terni in central Italy's Umbria region, said it chose the winners of the "A Year of Love" award from among 300 nominations received from five continents.

The annual prize, aimed at promoting Terni and the legacy of St. Valentine, awards either a gold medal or a cheque for 5 million lire (\$4,000), depending on the winner's preference.

# AT and T offers language line

## Simultaneous translation into 143 dialects world-wide

NEW YORK, Feb 16, (AP): American Telephone and Telegraph said it had expanded the availability of its simultaneous telephone translation service to customers worldwide.

The service called AT and T language line, offers English translation of telephone conversation in 143 languages and dialects. It is available to customers who pay a monthly fee of \$25 to \$50, plus a per-call charge of \$1.94 to \$2.75 a minute.

American Telephone and Telegraph Co. bought the company that originated the service, Communications and Language Line Inc., in August 1989. Since then, the service had been offered in limited areas.

AT and T said it has a staff of interpreters on duty in Monterey, California, around the clock. The service also maintains a file of language experts who can be

called if the staff is confronted with a language they are unfamiliar with, the company said.

Among users of the service are the Hertz Rent-A-Car company and the city of Minneapolis, which uses it to translate calls to the city's emergency line.

The service also can be used by subscribers to translate English into a foreign language, AT and T said.

The phone company would not dis-

close the number of customers for the service or its projections of the possible market for it.

AT and T said that later this year, it plans to offer the service of a non-subscription basis that will allow occasional customers to use it for \$3.50 a minute.

The AT and T language line service, is aimed at businesses, institutions and government and social agencies, the company said.

### PEOPLES AND PLACES

LOS ANGELES: Sylvester Stallone, John Travolta, Pia Zadora and Bo Derek were among the nominees for Razzie awards for the most dreadful performers of the decade.

The Golden Raspberry Foundation, a group of film fans who celebrate the worst in cinema, announced nominees Monday for the 10th Razzie awards.

Other nominees, Ryan O'Neal, Prince, Stallone and Travolta were nominated for worst actor of the decade. The nominees for worst actress of the 1980s were Miss DePree, Farrah Fawcett, Madonna, Brooke Shields and Miss Zadora.

The nominees for worst new star of the decade nominees were Atkins, Madonna, Prince, Miss Zadora and Diana Scarwid of Star Trek V.

Nominated as the worst films of the 1980s were Miss Derek's "Boleza," Howard The Duck, Miss Zadora's "The Lolely Lady," Miss Dunaway's "Mommie Dearest" and Star Trek V.

The nominations are determined by ballots from more than 275 Raspberry Foundation members in 22 states, Canada and Switzerland, the Foundation said.

The awards will be presented on March 25, the night before the Academy Awards. (AP)

RIVIERA BEACH, Florida: Actor Ben Vereen and Mayer Marisa Barry of Washington, DC, showed up at the same church service and addressed the congregation.

Vereen was expected, but Barry surprised worshippers at New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church with his appearance Sunday and a short speech admitting a dependence on alcohol.

"Part of the recovery process is having a spiritual focus," said the Reverend Thomas Masters, the church's pastor. "We were full of love, forgiveness and support for him." (AP)

DALLAS, Texas: Actor Gavin MacLeod said he does not regret having set sail on The Love Boat either for the television series' long-running cruise or its latest trip.

"Even though it's called mindless television, I think a lot of people would like to have been associated with mindless television and make that kind of money," MacLeod said.

The actor, who played the cruise boat's Captain Merrill Stubing, was promoting the new two-hour "Love Boat" television movie last week before its scheduled Monday night broadcast. (AP)

TOWSON, Maryland: Joe Clark, principal of a New Jersey High School who was criticized for his use of a baseball bat and bullhorn to move things along at school, said bats and bombs are needed for drug students' defense.

"Blow them out of the air, that's how you stop them," Clark told Towson State University students Sunday. "Drop a megaton bomb on the ship," he said of sailing smugglers. "Blow them to smithereens."

To clear street corners, Clark would set upon small-time drug dealers with 100 bat-wielding women because "they're the dangerous, ferocious fighters."

The remedy for poverty and failure is simply, "do for yourself," he told the students. (AP)



**'Kissing lips'**

Artist Art Grant shows off his five-tonne sculpture 'Kissing Lips' at Laguna Honda Hospital Feb 13. The

Valentine piece is made from one million Hershey's kisses. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Marlies' Trump link

Model Marlies Marries, who has been romantically linked with US billionaire Donald Trump in published reports, is shown in this undated model agency photo. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Photographer dies

British society photographer Norman Parkinson died Feb 15 of brain haemorrhage in a Singapore hospital at the age of 76.

### Increasing length of day

### Earth slows slightly

WASHINGTON, Feb 16, (UPI): A slight slowing of earth's rotation has increased the length of the day by about five ten-thousandths of a second every 10 days, the US Naval Observatory reported yesterday.

Astronomers observed the change, the largest since 1984, from data from the National Earth Orientation Service, a joint operation of the observatory, the National Geodetic Survey and the International Earth Rotation Service in France, an observatory statement said.

Previous changes in the length of the day have been related to changes in the average speed of Earth's east-west winds from large weather changes, which act on the surface of Earth to minutely change the speed of rotation, according to the statement.

PROVO, Utah: One of the American west's best-known editorial cartoonists has some simple advice for public figures who want to avoid being ridiculed by him on editorial pages across the country:

Drop dead: As far as nationally syndicated cartoonist Steve Breen is concerned, dying is the best way public figures can expect to be treated fairly in his cartoons, which appear nearly in 200 newspapers across the United States.

Breen says the job of cartoonists is to catalyze discussion. Some credit cartoons he drew for the newspaper the Arizona Republic as a factor in the impeachment of former Arizona Governor Evan Mechem.

New York: Comedian Carol Burnett says she still thinks about the late Lucille Ball every day.

"She died on my birthday," Burnett said in an interview with McCalls magazine. "I've known and loved Lucy all my professional life."

Burnett recalled that Ball came backstage to visit her on the second night of Once Upon A Mattress, Burnett's first Broadway show and one of her first steps toward stardom.

"We had never met each other until then, but she sat for half an hour, giving me all kinds of advice and encouragement," Burnett said. (AP)

AIRPORT, South Carolina: US Senator Strom Thurmond, who at 87 says the secret to long life is good diet, exercise and optimism, has announced he will run for reelection in November. He has no formal challengers.

Thurmond became the oldest member of Congress when representative Claude Pepper, Democrat from Florida, died last year at age 88. If Thurmond wins, he would be 94 when his new term — his seventh — ends. He made his announcement Monday. (AP)

LAS VEGAS, Nevada: Nissan Motor Corporations finally lifted the advertising lid on its infinite luxury cars, showing off the vehicles instead of rocks, birds and plants.

Nissan was criticised by some automotive advertising analysts for its unusual advertising campaign last year. While an announcer spoke softly, viewers saw such pastoral scenes as countryside or fields. Viewers did not see the car.

Similarly, print ads were car-less. (AP)

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# Simple values

## Di upholds marriage

LONDON, Feb 16, (AP): Princess Diana says "very simple" values can triumph over the complex difficulties encountered in modern marriages.

Marriage offers stability, and perhaps that is why nearly 7,000 couples tie the knot every week in Britain, the Princess said Wednesday in a speech to Relate, a marriage guidance organisation.

"Sadly, for many of these marriages, reality fails to live up to expectations. When that happens most couples discover and draw on new reserves of love and strength," Diana said. "But for many, their own resources are not enough."

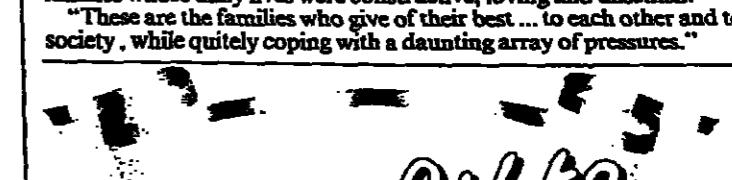
The Princess, a patron of Relate, presented the charity's family of the year award.

The winners were Rico and Heather Gopaul, both 30, and children Rico Jr., 7, Ryan, 6, Rickey, 3, and Rosita, 2. The mother and father are nurses who care for mentally handicapped people at a hospital near their home in Colchester.

"I must admit to having been rather puzzled when I heard of the family of the year award. I didn't realize that family life was a competition, let alone one for which you got prizes," Diana said.

However, she said, the award was the tribute to the thousands of families whose daily lives were constructive, loving and unselfish.

"These are the families who give of their best ... to each other and to society, while quietly coping with a daunting array of pressures."



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**125 TOPS** 1 25 Quart Igloo Ice Chest

**130 TOPS** 1 17-piece Noritake Teaset

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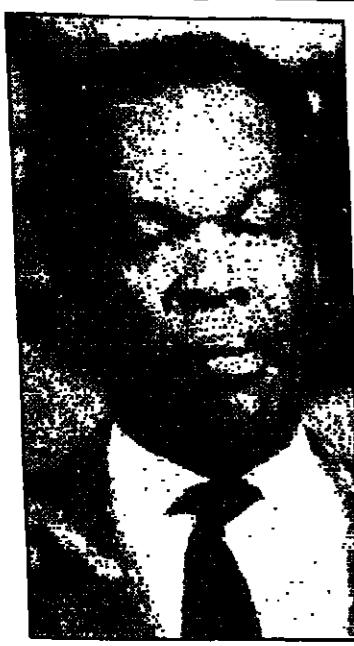
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Tuesdays 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Tel. 2439645



Marion Barry. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Drug charge, Barry to fight

WASHINGTON, Feb 16, (AP): Washington Mayor Marion Barry has been formally charged with eight drug-related offences and vowed to battle what he branded a "political lynching" by the US Justice Department.

A grand jury climaxed a year-long probe with an eight-count indictment yesterday. If convicted on all counts, Barry would face a maximum 20 years in prison and \$1.25 million in fines.

Barry, one of the nation's most prominent black leaders, was charged with three felony counts for allegedly lying when he told the grand jury that he had never used drugs and on five lesser misdemeanour counts of cocaine possession.

Barry, in his 11th year as mayor of the US capital, was accused of possessing cocaine four times in 1988 after a probe of an incident at a hotel here and on January 18, 1990, when he was arrested in an undercover operation after agents videotaped him allegedly smoking highly addictive crack cocaine.

Since his arrest, Barry, 53, has been under voluntary therapy for what he has called alcoholism at a drug and alcohol treatment centre in west Palm Beach, Florida.

Although Barry's political future seems in shambles, he promised a stiff fight to prove his innocence in a statement he issued from his office here after the indictment.

"Today's indictment does not surprise me at all because it represents a continuation of the political lynching and excesses of the justice department in this multi-year, multi-million dollar effort to investigate me and the Barry administration," the Barry statement said.

The political lynching charge was seen as potentially very explosive in a city that is 70 per cent black. He had been very popular but his popularity started fading after the much publicised grand jury probe started.

The prosecution is led by US attorney Jay Stephens, who is white and has denied repeatedly that his pursuit of the black mayor was politically or racially motivated.

Barry also vowed to fight to maintain his innocence and rejected suggestions that he resign, although he has turned over most duties to an acting mayor. A felony conviction would bar him from office.

## Avianca lawsuit

NEW YORK, Feb 16, (AP): A man who was aboard Avianca flight 52 with two newly adopted Colombian children has filed a multimillion-dollar law suit against the airline for injuries the three sustained in last month's crash.

The suit, filed Wednesday in US district court, seeks \$105 million in compensatory and punitive damages for William and Alecia Heidi, of Wyckoff, New Jersey, and their adoptive children, Peter, 11 and Bianca, 13.

Heidi was returning from Colombia with the children when the Avianca jet crashed Jan 25 in Cove Neck on Long Island, just northeast of Kennedy airport. They were among 85 injured passengers. Seventy-three people, including the flight crew, died.

"The claim against Avianca is that the pilot ran out of gas. It's as simple as that," Kenneth Nolan, Heidi's attorney, said.

Heidi, 51, a machine shop supervisor, severely fractured both legs, his neck and several ribs. He has undergone several operations since the crash.

The children suffered lesser physical injuries but Nolan said both are experiencing extreme psychological problems.

# Ex-presidents don't want the job again

It's time for young — Ford; happy in new life — Reagan; I don't miss it — Carter; It's silly question — Nixon

WASHINGTON, Feb 16, (AP): None of the four living former US presidents shows any interest in having the job again, according to an article in the forthcoming issue of the Sunday newspaper supplement USA Weekend.

"The time has come for younger people to serve the country," General Ford, 77, told the magazine in an interview for its Feb 16-

18 issue.

Ronald Reagan, 79, asked if he would like to be president again, said, "I do not think so ... Nancy and I are happy in our new life now and I like being back out there on the 'mashed potato circuit' talking with the people and, I hope, inspiring them to urge their representatives to do some of the things we weren't able to accomplish."

Jimmy Carter, 65, said he and his wife, Rosalynn, don't "miss the pomp, ceremony and perks but we often remember how nice it was to visit Camp David." He said he would not want to return to office, but would "be happy if one of my grandchildren becomes president."

Richard Nixon, 77, asked if he would want to be president again, replied only,

"not if I have to answer such silly questions as this one."

Reagan, Carter and Nixon responded to questions in writing. Ford was interviewed over the telephone.

All four said they do not believe former presidents should have any formal role in government, such as a senator-at-large seat that has sometimes been suggested.

Reagan and Ford both supported President George Bush's decision to invade Panama. Carter said he "deplored the invasion" but hoped it would lead to "freedom, democracy and economic prosperity."

Nixon said, "I understand why President Bush acted as he did," but added that in general the United States should not directly depose foreign leaders. "When the United

States decides by itself who is going to run a country, it runs the risk of ending up running the country itself," he said.

Carter, commenting on the suggestion of some writers that he is gaining more distinction as an active ex-president than he did in office, said it "does not bother me, and I am grateful for the more favourable attitude of the news media in recent years."

## Vow to fight drugs

### US forces in Andean region ruled out

CARTAGENA, Colombia, Feb 16, (AP): The president of the United States and three cocaine-producing nations of South America have forged an agreement on a new drug-fighting strategy during a tense summit under an air, sea and land security shield.

US President George Bush boasted that the new pact he had signed yesterday with Presidents Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Alan Garcia of Peru and Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia would create the world's "first anti-drug cartel."

A joint communiqué signed by the four presidents apparently ruled

out the use of US military forces in the Andean region. "Each country may involve its armed forces in this fight within its own national territory," the document said.

In their meeting, they steered away from some of the most controversial drug initiatives, such as the idea of a naval cordon off Colombia, and chose instead to deal in broader themes. That helped keep harmony among the sometimes differing leaders.

Extraordinary security precautions were taken to protect the four leaders: 5,000 uniformed troops guarded the proceedings; battleships



That One'

The four presidents attending the anti-drug summit (left to right) Alan Garcia, Peru; Jamie Paz Zamora, Bolivia; Virgilio Barco, Colombia and George Bush, US; study the Cartagena skyline yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Anti-US protest

## Third kidnap

BOGOTA, Feb 16, (Reuter): Suspected pro-Cuban guerrillas yesterday kidnapped a US priest, the third American seized this week in apparent protest against President George Bush's visit to Colombia to attend an anti-drug summit.

Police said they presumed National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels kidnapped Francisco Antonio Amiko Ferrari, head of a Canadian-sponsored Catholic community in the southwestern city of Cali, home of a powerful drugs smuggling cartel.

On Monday the ELN kidnapped American businessman James Arthur Donnelly and on Tuesday American teacher David Leslie Kent was abducted near the northern city of Medellin, home of a rival cocaine cartel.

The ELN told Colombian media they kidnapped Donnelly and Kent to protest against Bush's visit to Cartagena where he met the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia on Thursday to forge a co-ordinated battle against trafficking.

Amiko Ferrari, about 40 years old, was seized in the Puerto Mallarino suburb of Cali by men travelling in a red car and was taken away, Cali police told reporters.

Police suspected the kidnappers were ELN guerrillas, Colombia's most active rebel group. This month the ELN blew up the main Cano Limon oil pipeline, killed seven soldiers in an ambush and kidnapped a Colombian senator. Scattered disturbances broke out in Colombia to protest against Bush's visit. Students chanted anti-US slogans set ablaze three vehicles in front of the University of Antioquia in Medellin, police said.

## EEC bid to make laundering a crime

Law by Jan 1992

STRASBOURG, France, Feb 16, (AP): The EEC commission proposed draft legislation to make money laundering criminal in all 12 European Economic Community member states by Jan 1, 1992.

If adopted by the member states' governments, banks and other financial institutions would have to identify customers and take "reasonable measures" in doubtful cases "to establish the real identity of the persons on whose behalf an operation is carried out or an account is opened."

If the institution discovered facts which made it suspect a money laundering offence, it would inform law enforcement authorities and give them all the information asked for.

The approach is different from that in the United States where all transactions over \$10,000 are automatically reported to the authorities.

on July 1.

Ireland, Portugal and Greece are the only EEC nations where legislation to make money laundering criminal is neither in place nor being planned.

Under the commission's proposal, financial institutions would have to identify customers and take "reasonable measures" in doubtful cases "to establish the real identity of the persons on whose behalf an operation is carried out or an account is opened."

A joint operation carried out by Colombian police and Interpol, the international police agency, uncovered evidence that two members of ETA, the Basque Separatist Organisation, also had carried out terrorist activities in Colombia, Maza said.

He accused the two men of a Dec 6 bombing of the intelligence police headquarters in Bogota in which 63 people died. He declined to identify the suspects, saying the investigation of their activities was continuing.



Hallelujah

US President George Bush raises his arms to the sun as he arrives in Barranquilla, Colombia, yesterday to attend drug summit in Cartagena. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Israeli hired hand in jet blast

BOGOTA, Feb 16, (AP): The head of Colombia's intelligence police said that a retired Israeli colonel trained the men who placed a bomb aboard an Avianca airliner that killed all 167 aboard last fall.

Gen. Miguel Maza Marquez said that Col. Yair Klein, who previously had been accused of training paramilitary squads for drug traffickers, was legally responsible for the deaths.

"This is the person who has done the most damage to Colombia," Marquez said in a news conference in the city of Cartagena, site of a anti-drug summit between President George Bush of the United States, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Jaime Paz of Bolivia and Alan Garcia of Peru.

Last year Colombian authorities issued an arrest warrant for Klein, whom they accused of leading a team of Israeli, British and Australian mercenaries in Colombia.

Colombian police seized films of the group training paramilitary squads and said that drug traffickers paid the mercenaries to give the courses.

Maza said that some of the men who received the training later blew up the Avianca Boeing 727 shortly after it took off from Bogota on a domestic flight Nov 27.

The attack was one of more than 260 terrorist actions apparently taken by drug traffickers since the government began a crackdown against them last August. More than 200 people have died in the attacks.

"Klein was the man who trained the actual perpetrators of the Avianca Airlines attack," Maza said. "He was the one who taught them how to make the bomb and therefore is responsible under Colombian criminal law for this atrocious crime."

Klein is living in Israel and is being investigated by the country's authorities. There is no extradition agreement between Israel and Colombia.

Maza said that two of the suspects in the airliner bombing were killed in a chain of Bogota assassinations following the death of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, a leader of the Medellin drug cartel, in a Dec 15 gunfight with police.

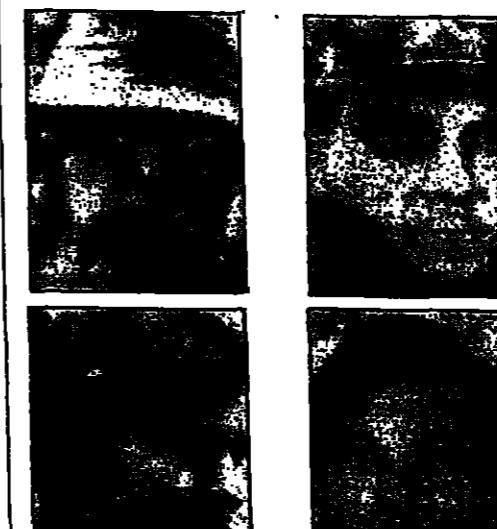
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The nominees are...

The nominees for Best Actress (top: left to right) Jessica Lange for 'Driving Miss Daisy,' Jessica Lange for 'Music Box.' (Below: left to right) Michelle Pfeiffer for 'The Fabulous Baker Boys' and Pauline Collins for 'Shirley Valentine.' (Reuter wirephoto)



Directors vying

The nominees for Best Director Academy Award are: clockwise from top left: Woody Allen for 'Crimes and Misdemeanors,' Kenneth Branagh for 'Henry V,' Oliver Stone for 'Born on the Fourth of July,' Peter Weir for 'Dead Poets Society.' There was no photo available for director Jim Sheridan for 'My Left Foot.' (Reuter wirephoto)

## First guilty plea in Noriega trial

MIAMI, Feb 16, (AP): A Panamanian pilot admitted yesterday flying \$800,000 in cocaine profits from Florida to Panama in 1983, becoming the first of Manuel Noriega's co-defendants to plead guilty in the drug trafficking case.

Noriega's lawyers said their client had nothing to fear from information the pilot, Eduardo Pardo, might give prosecutors.

"If he tells the truth, he can't hurt us," said Noriega attorney Frank Rubino.

Pardo, 44, was arrested by Drug Enforcement Administration agents in Panama City after the US invasion. His attorney, William Meadows, and assistant US Attorney Michael Sullivan said there was no plea bargain in the case.

Noriega and Pardo were among 16 people indicted in Miami in February 1983 on charges of taking part in a

conspiracy that made Panama a way station and processing centre for Colombia's Medellin drug cartel.

Shaken and occasionally close to three years, Pardo, who faces up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine at sentencing April 25 on a single count of illegal travel, admitted to prosecutors' account of the 1983 drug-money

Pardo and co-defendant Daniel Miranda flew a Learjet fitted "with secret compartments so that money could be hidden," Sullivan told the court. "They were worried that the secret compartment would make the plane unsafe to fly, but they were assured it was OK."

Pardo received \$40,000 for the flight and knew it was drug money, the prosecutor said.

Meadows said he had no idea whether Pardo would testify against Noriega or any of the other defendants.

The defendant most immediately threatened by Pardo, should he testify for the prosecution, appeared to be Mirinda, who allegedly accompanied him on the flight.

But Mirinda's attorney, Michael O'Kane, said his client didn't know where the money came from. "I guess Pardo's guilty. That doesn't mean that Mirinda is," O'Kane said.

Richard Sharpetin, attorney for Brian Alden Davidow, the only defendant free on bail, said outside court that even without an agreement to testify for the government, Pardo's plea made him a likely witness.

Noriega is accused of accepting \$4.6 million in bribes from the Medellin Cartel.

The Panamanian leader, who surrendered to US troops after the Dec 20 invasion of his country, has disputed the right of a US civilian court to judge him, claiming he is a prisoner of war.

States decides by itself who is going to run a country, it runs the risk of ending up running the country itself," he said.

Carter, commenting on the suggestion of some writers that he is gaining more distinction as an active ex-president than he did in office, said it "does not bother me, and I am grateful for the more favourable attitude of the news media in recent years."

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# Argentina, UK restore ties

Dispute over Falklands remain unresolved: UN hails decision

LONDON, Feb 16. (AP): Britain and Argentina have welcomed the agreement to restore diplomatic ties severed nearly eight years ago by the Falklands war, but their dispute over ownership of the British-ruled Islands goes on.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said on Sky television last night that the agreement reached by officials of the two countries in Madrid earlier in the day was a very good one.

"It underlines the fact that we have no quarrel with Argentina and this has been achieved without any sacrifice of (British) sovereignty" over the islands, he said.

But President Carlos Menem at a news conference in Buenos Aires repeated Argent-

ina's claim over the South Atlantic islands 300 miles (480 kms) off his country's coast.

Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said the deal "means passing from a state of war to a state of peace."

At the same time, Menem moved quickly to finish the process of normalising relations by announcing that career diplomat Mario Campora, who is currently deputy foreign minister, would be named the new ambassador to Britain.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has consistently refused to discuss Falklands sovereignty with Argentina. In return, Argentina refused until Thursday to say it regarded hostilities with Britain in the South Atlantic to be ended.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said: "I very much welcome the decision ... to re-establish diplomatic relations. This immediately creates an atmosphere of confidence."

Talks between British and Argentine officials on resuming normal relations began last August after Menem said Argentina would not raise its claim to Falklands sovereignty at them.

Talks in Berne, Switzerland, in July 1984 founded over Argentina's insistence on raising the sovereignty issue in the face of Britain's refusal to discuss it.

The Falklands war erupted after Argentine forces invaded the islands on April 2, 1982. Britain sent a military task force, which recaptured them after a 74-day war. The fighting claimed the lives of 712 Argentines, 255 Britons and three islanders.

Argentina claims the islands, which it calls the Malvinas, are part of its Spanish colonial heritage and says Britain stole them. Britain denies this.

A key to the Madrid deal was Britain's agreement to lift its 150-mile (240 km)-radius military protection zone around the islands, from which Argentine warships and planes were excluded.

The zone was patrolled by British submarines, ships and planes, while the islands themselves are guarded by 2,000 British troops.

Sir Crispin Tickell, the diplomat who led the British team in Madrid, said: "The zone is being lifted (from March 31) ... what we have done instead is to create security areas of importance to both countries."

The British Foreign Office said last night that the two nations had agreed to inform one another about movements of their warships and military aircraft in key areas of the South Atlantic and give notice of large military exercises.

Under the deal, Argentine warships wishing to come within 50 miles (80 kms) of the islands and Argentine warplanes wishing to come within 70 miles (110 kms) will have to give 48 hours notice.

Menem said the Madrid deal opened up trade possibilities for Argentina, a major meat exporter.

"Aside from having eliminated ... the possibilities of an armed conflict, it opens for us wide possibilities in ... the European Economic Community," he said.

A paratrooper dangled unconscious under a West German air force plane for 20 minutes Thursday as it circled in Arctic cold while the crew struggled to pull him in, Nato officials said.

Pvt. Michael Loeb, 21, (shown left) of Semsbach, West Germany, was treated for frostbite and shock but otherwise was unharmed, said major Luit Gendorff, a spokesman for Nato exercise Array Encounter, underway in northern Norway.

A cord from Loeb's military kit tangled inside the C-160 transport plane when he jumped, leaving him hanging as the aircraft flew at 240 kilometres (150 miles)

per hour, 300 metres (980 feet) above the ground, Gendorff said.

Normally, he would have been cut loose and completed the jump. That wasn't possible because he lost consciousness, probably due to the cold," he said. The temperature was minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 20 Centigrade).

"I'll jump again as soon as I get the chance," Loeb, serving in the 252 para battalion from Nagold, West Germany, said from a hospital bed after the accident. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Soldier survives failed jump

A paratrooper dangled unconscious under a West German air force plane for 20 minutes Thursday as it circled in Arctic cold while the crew struggled to pull him in, Nato officials said.

Pvt. Michael Loeb, 21, (shown left) of Semsbach, West Germany, was treated for frostbite and shock but otherwise was unharmed, said major Luit Gendorff, a spokesman for Nato exercise Array Encounter, underway in northern Norway.

A cord from Loeb's military kit tangled inside the C-160 transport plane when he jumped, leaving him hanging as the aircraft flew at 240 kilometres (150 miles)

## Mom gets pregnant to give girl marrow transplant

LOS ANGELES, Feb 16. (UPI): A 43-year-old woman whose daughter has leukemia has become pregnant in hopes the baby will be able to provide a bone-marrow transplant for the stricken teenager.

Mary Ayala, of Walnut, California, who is due to give birth in mid-April, hopes the newborn infant's bone marrow will be a match for her 17-year-old daughter, Anissa.

"I never thought I'd be pregnant at my age," the mother-to-be told the Los Angeles Times, "but when you're faced with the pos-

sibility that your child is going to die, you desperately seek, and whatever you need to do, you do it."

Physicians said the bone marrow can be taken with little risk from an infant who is at least six months old.

The chances for a bone marrow match among siblings is about 25 per cent, while there is only a 1-in-20,000 chance of finding a matching donor in the general population.

No other family members match Anissa's bone marrow, and a search by the national

marrow donor programme of unrelated donors has failed to find a match.

While parents must give consent for children to be bone-marrow donors, the newspaper reported that a mother giving birth to a child for the purpose of providing a donor raises ethical questions.

"What they're doing ethically is very troubling, but on the other hand, I can sympathize with their desire to do everything possible to save their daughter's life," Alexander M. Capron, professor of law and medicine.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### America

**Ride thrives on research:** Nothing can reproduce the thrill of the launch pad, but former astronaut Sally Ride is finding satisfaction in the quiet of the university campus.

Ride, America's first woman in space, joined the faculty at University of California, San Diego, last fall. She teaches physics and directs the California Space Institute, which co-ordinates space research among the state's eight UC campuses.

Ride said she thrives on hours spent in her research — the design of free electron lasers — and in meeting with students. (AP)

**Bowie lawsuit dismissed:** A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit against rock star David Bowie that claimed he sexually assaulted a fan and told her he had AIDS after spending the night with her.

Wanda Lee Nichols said Bowie assaulted her after inviting her to his hotel room on Oct. 9, 1987, during a concert tour stopover in Dallas.

Bowie conceded he had spent the night with Ms Nichols, but denied he had assaulted her. A grand jury declined to indict Bowie on November 18, 1987. (AP)

**Close: woman of the year:** Actress Glenn Close scooped up another honour from a college, this time from the Dartmouth Film Society in Hanover, New Hampshire, joining Robert Redford and Lillian Gish as recipients of the organization's award.

"I hope I can keep doing the kind of work that warrants the overwhelming response," the actress said at Wednesday's ceremony at Dartmouth College. "It's deeply moving and I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Close, a five-time Academy award nominee, made her film debut in 1982 in "The World According to Garp." Since then, she has starred in such films as "Fatal Attraction," and "Dangerous Liaisons." (AP)

**American lords take on:** Broadcast executive Laurence A. Tisch and publishing Mogul Malcolm Forbes are part of a corporate bridge team taking on British parliamentarians as the lords of American finance meet real British nobility.

Sir Peter Emery of London and the selector Duke of Atholl will co-chair the British parliament team in the February 23 match in London, said Kathy Wei of the American Contract Bridge League.

Ms Wei, one of the top world bridge players, said Wednesday she will be master of ceremonies for the event. (AP)

**The change will do you good:** Win or lose, transsexual Terri Polhman's bid for mayor promises to enliven the political landscape of Yountville, a sleepy northern California town.

Polhman, a 37-year-old costume jewelry saleswoman who underwent a sex change operation in the 1970s, is campaigning on the slogan "the change will do you good."

A one-time female impersonator who moved to Yountville two years ago, Polhman faces two opponents in the April 10 election. If elected, she said, she plans to donate the \$180 a month mayor's salary to charity. (Reuter)

**Giant African frogs probe:** Before giant Goliath frogs from Africa are allowed to hop in the annual Calaveras county frog-jumping jubilee in Angels Camp, California US contest officials have a few questions for the folks back home.

What do Goliaths eat? How do they catch their prey? Can they spread disease by biting?

When is their mating season? The Calaveras county fair board, concerned about the foreign frogs, wants to know the answers before ruling whether the Goliaths may enter the May 17-20 contest. (Reuter)

**Tsunami, hits Monterey:** The earthquake that walloped northern California in October triggered a four-foot-high tsunami, a huge underwater landslide and a feeding frenzy by fish in Monterey Bay, scientists say.

Towns along the bay were lucky the tsunami, a quake-caused sea wave, occurred near low tide. If the bolt had come at high tide, "there could have been problems," oceanographer Frank Schweng said Thursday in a telephone interview. (AP)



### Bolivian wealth

Peasant leaders chew coca leaves Feb 15 during a protest held in Cochabamba. The leaders of peasant groups declared yesterday National Coca Chewing Day in reaction to the drug summit held in Cartagena. The sign reads 'Coca is the wealth of Bolivia.' (Reuter wirephoto)

**Voyager 1 appears successful:** The Voyager 1 spacecraft sent radio signals to Earth on Wednesday indicating it successfully snapped pictures of most of the planets to date, the first family portrait of the solar system. NASA said.

"Engineering data we received show the proper commands were executed. It looks like the pictures were taken properly," said Mary Hardin, a spokeswoman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Voyager 1, which photographed Jupiter in 1980 and Saturn in 1981, was ordered to snap the photographs Tuesday evening, but it took five hours and 36 minutes for signals confirming the commands were received to travel the 3.7 billion miles (5.9 billion kilometers) to Earth, Hardin said. (AP)

**Reactor shut down:** The nation's principal maker of radioactive isotopes for nuclear medicine was shut down indefinitely because of leak in its reactor cooling system, the third in three months, officials said in Sterling Forest, NY.

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State Department of Environmental Conservation ordered the Cinchicem reactor shut down Tuesday until the company proves it can operate without radioactive leaks, according to a joint statement. (AP)

**Sandinistas threaten expropriation:** President Daniel Ortega said Wednesday that if his leftist Sandinista Party wins this month's elections, it will seize property owned by opposition leaders, including the only opposition newspaper.

"If we win, I say we will hand them a complete bill, so they will be left without a newspaper — La Prensa — and the homes of the candidate and the vice-presidential candidate will be converted into children's homes on the day after the elections," Ortega told a campaign rally.

Ortega and Vice-President Sergio Ramirez are seeking re-election Feb 25, running against La Prensa publisher Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy on the ticket of the 14-party United National Opposition, or UNO. (AP)

**Bombs thrown at embassies:** Leftist guerrillas threw bombs at the United States and Panamanian embassies and an American-owned auto parts company office, causing some damage but no injuries, police said Thursday.

In separate, nearly simultaneous attacks, the bombs were thrown from passing cars shortly before midnight Wednesday, police said.

Authorities found flyers at the facilities linking the three bombings to the pro-Cuban Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, police said. (AP)

## 3 German hackers convicted of selling codes to KGB

CELLE, West Germany, Feb 16. (AP): Three West German hackers were found guilty yesterday of selling Western military computer codes to the Soviet KGB and giving suspended sentences ranging from 14 months to two years.

Dirk Brzezinski, Peter Carl and Markus Hess were arrested in March after an investigation by US and West German officials revealed the three had obtained passwords and codes giving them access to key military and research computers in the United States, Western Europe and Japan.

A fourth man, 30-year-old Karl Koch, who was also arrested in the case, committed suicide in May.

At the trial, which began Jan 11, all three admitted guilty in obtaining the codes to sell them to a Soviet KGB agent in East Berlin.

In yesterday's decision, chief Judge Leopold Spiller said the three were given suspended sentences because "it could not be proven that substantial damage had been done to the federal republic (West Germany) or its NATO partners." But Spiller also said the three sold the computer codes for money.

Carl was sentenced to 24 months; Hess 20 months and Brzezinski 14 months.

All three men were freed on suspended sentences as long as they stay out of trouble with the law for

the duration of their terms.

Carl, 35, told the court during the trial that he could only identify the KGB agent he dealt with as "Serge" and said he did not wish to reveal anything more about the Soviets in open court for fear of reprisals.

Court records show that Carl made at least 25 contacts with the Soviets and received a total 90,000 marks (\$54,500) for the computer information, which was split among the hackers, amateurs who figure out ways to access private computer systems.

Brzezinski, 30, told the court that Koch had the original idea of selling the information to the KGB.

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Cheney peers through binoculars at the North Korean border. (Reuter wirephoto)

## LDP win predicted in Japan election

TOKYO, Feb 16, (AP): Unusually high voter turnout is expected in Japan's parliamentary election this weekend, with more polls today showing the governing Liberal Democratic Party likely to stay in power.

Less than two days before the ballot, Japanese media predicted an 80-93 per cent voter turnout in Sunday's election for representatives to Parliament's powerful lower house.

The high voter interest reflects the importance of the election, which could drive the Liberal Democrats from their 34-year hold on power. Last July the Liberal Democrats lost control of the less powerful upper house in the wake of the imposition of an unpopular new sales tax and the influence-buying Recruit scandal, named after the firm at the centre of the controversy.

The newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun said today its poll showed that "the people's concern over the Recruit scandal and the consumption tax has weakened while concern over basic standard-of-living issues such as land, housing, prices and welfare has increased."

A survey by Kyodo News Service released today showed the Conservative governing party winning 46.7 per cent of the vote and the Japan Socialist Party, the No 1 opposition group, taking 23.8 per cent. The Liberal Democrats' share increased by 1.5 per cent from a Kyodo poll taken before parliamentary elections in 1986, while the Socialists registered 13.2 per cent support at that time.

Other media polls during the week have given the Liberal Democrats 259-265 seats in the 512-seat lower house, down from their current 295, and the Socialists 120-140 seats, up from their current 85.

A party needs a minimum of 257 seats for a simple majority in the chamber, which selects the prime minister and has the power to adopt the national budget and treaties without approval of the upper house, which can block legislation on other issues.

In all the surveys, 30-40 per cent of the voters polled remained uncommitted to any candidate, leaving open the possibility of a defeat for the governing party.

"Yomiuri," Japan's largest newspaper, said 80 per cent of those surveyed will cast ballots, while Kyodo said 93 per cent of those they surveyed expected to. Voter turnout was 71 per cent in the 1986 balloting and 65 per cent in the upper house election last year. No margins of error were available for the polls.

■ Japanese officials today rebuffed suggestions by Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov that economic relations between their two countries should be considered separately from a thorny territorial dispute.

"We're not desperately in need of money, in fact we have too much," acting Foreign Ministry spokesman Seigo Takenaka said when asked Japan's reaction to Ryzhkov's suggestion that Tokyo could miss out on economic opportunities in the Soviet Union if it continues to insist on the return of the southern Kuril Islands.

Takenaka said the disputed territory is the centrepiece of any relationship that might develop between Japan and the Soviet Union."

## Cory plays down snub to Cheney

'Just leave it at that'

MANILA, Feb 16, (AP): President Corazon Aquino refused yesterday to be drawn into an argument with US President George Bush over his decision not to see US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney during his visit next week.

Bush, in an interview with the New York Daily News, said Aquino would "earn a great deal from Dick Cheney about the way we view the very important United States presence in the Pacific."

"President Bush and I have mutual respect for each other's personal and official views," Aquino said in a statement issued in response to request for comment on Bush's remarks published in Manila's newspapers.

"Regarding the visit of secretary Cheney, we have given our respective views. Let us just leave it at that," Aquino said.

## Hawke calls snap election

Close fight likely

SYDNEY, Feb 16, (Reuter): Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke today called a snap election for March 24, and predicted a close fight as his Labour Party bids for a record fourth consecutive term in office.

"I'm not in any sense complacent or cocky about this campaign ... it's going to be a tight campaign," Hawke told a news conference where he announced the election.

Opinion polls show labour inching ahead of the Liberal/National Party coalition led by Andrew Peacock.

Political analysts said the campaign would hinge on economics, with Hawke defending his record and the conservative opposition, riven by leadership disputes, trying to show it has the ability to govern and do better.

"It is going to be a matter of people deciding which of the two major parties looks the most credible at pulling Australia out of the economic slump it's in," said Dean Jaensch, reader in politics at Flinders University, South Australia.

No-one was surprised by Hawke's decision to call the poll on March 24, almost two months early. Major parties have been involved in unofficial electioneering for months.

Despite voter discontent towards Labour because of high interest rates and other economic problems, the latest opinion polls show the Hawke government three percentage points ahead of the opposition.

A Morgan Gallup opinion poll released this week showed 50 per cent of Australians favoured the charismatic Hawke as prime minister, while only 18 per cent supported Peacock, who heads the Liberal Party.

"Clearly, (all the signs) suggest



Bob Hawke. (Reuter wirephoto)

it is the right time to call an election," said Jaensch.

"Labour was certainly out of favour at the end of last year but it seems that the trendline has come back towards labour."

The opposition needs only a 2.6 per cent swing nationally to win power, or a net gain of 12 out of the 148 House of Representative (lower house) seats.

Hawke, who took office in 1983, has given Australians the choice between what he says is labour's visionary government, with a proven record of economic management, or a bankrupt opposition.

"There is a truth of Australian politics which has been reflected over a long period of time: If you can't govern yourselves, you can't govern the country," Hawke told today's news conference.

"Clearly, (all the signs) suggest

## Nujoma elected President

UN chief to swear in new leader on March 21

WINDHOEK, Feb 16, (AP): Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West Africa People's Organisation for 30 years, was elected Namibia's first President today in preparation for the territory's independence March 21.

The 72-member constituent assembly unanimously elected Nujoma, who helped found Swapo in 1960 and led it through a 23-year bush war against South African rule of Namibia, formerly called South-West Africa.

"On behalf of the Namibian people and myself I want to express my sincere appreciation for the trust and honour you have bestowed upon me," Nujoma told the assembly. "Once again I call on all Namibians to remain united behind our government and work together for peace and stability."

Nujoma is to be sworn in office on independence day by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Namibia's South African administrator Louis Pienaar will continue to be in charge of the territory until then.

South Africa, which has ruled Namibia since 1915, has agreed to grant the territory independence under a regional peace accord signed in 1988 with Angola and Cuba.

More than 6,000 UN military and civilian personnel have been monitoring the transition to independence, which began last April.

Former US Presidential candidate the Rev. Jesse Jackson attended the assembly session and was given time to address the members.

"I'm impressed by people civilised enough to agree and disagree," Jackson told the assembly.

"This is an example of how a democratic society can work when people move from polarisation to coalition."

Jackson, who completed an eight-day visit to



Nujoma elected to be the first President of Namibia after independence. (Reuter wirephoto)

South Africa yesterday, said Namibia could become a "shining example" of democracy for South Africa.

Jackson, who has known Nujoma for many years, told the Namibian leader that "God has rewarded you for all your suffering."

The black US civil rights leader said he would urge the US government to increase aid to Namibia and other black-ruled countries in the region.

■ Leslie Swapo won 41 assembly seats in elections last November and six other parties captured the remaining 31 spots.

SEOUL, Feb 16, (AP): US Secretary of State Dick Cheney told Seoul officials that he wants to cut US forces in Asia and the Pacific by 10 to 12 per cent — at least 12,000 troops — over the next three years.

He said about 5,000 of the troops would be pulled out of South Korea and another 7,000 to 9,400 would be withdrawn from the Philippines and Japan. There are 120,000 US troops based in the three countries.

Cheney flew by helicopter along the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea today and lunched with combat-ready American troops to discuss cutbacks in US forces.

Morning fog in the rugged terrain along the

demilitarized zone delayed Cheney's helicopter tour, but the weather improved by noon and he flew 56 kilometres (35 miles) northeast of Seoul to Camp Casey, headquarters of the US 2nd infantry division.

Cheney saw dozens of tanks, bunkers and guard posts covered with camouflage, buildings painted in speckled olive-drab and brown and soldiers in full-scale battle fatigues, the standard uniform for combat-ready troops along the border between communist North Korea and the capitalist South.

Journalists were told Cheney asked to have an informal lunch with 12 non-commissioned officers "with no generals present."

Cheney explained the background of cuts in troop strength and defence spending to senior enlisted men and asked for their comments, one witness said.

There are 43,000 US troops stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence pact. US officials said yesterday about 5,000 are expected to be withdrawn in the next three years.

Cheney, who also will travel to Manila and Tokyo, said the troop cuts in South Korea would not be pushed "precipitously."

"Our commitment remains strong," Cheney told reporters yesterday.

At a meeting with South Korean President Roh

Tae-Woo yesterday, Cheney reaffirmed Washington's firm security commitment to Seoul and ward off the military threat from communist North Korea "remains undiminished."

The Koreas, divided since 1945, face each other with more than 1.5 million troops deployed on both sides.

Yesterday, North Korea charged that Cheney was in the region to observe South Korean preparations for war against the North.

At a news conference at the end of talks yesterday, South Korean Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon said his government would give "positive consideration" to increasing its support for the troops.

## Sino-UK deal on HK not enough

BEIJING, Feb 16, (UPI): A compromise between Britain and China on a mini-constitution for Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997 is unlikely to restore the territory's shattered confidence, Hong Kong negotiators said yesterday.

The assessment came as officials clarified the confusing announcement Wednesday that agreement had been reached on key disputed issues in talks on the so-called basic law, the document by which Hong Kong will be governed after 1997.

China made some concessions on the pace and form of how the territory will become more democratic, Hong Kong negotiators said, but not enough to substantially ease fears that intensified after last year's Chinese crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

"It's a little bit of improvement, bits and pieces," said Raymond Wu, a Hong Kong member of the committee drafting the mini-constitution.

"Every change is along the line of what Hong Kong people have asked for, but whatever changes (were made) will only satisfy a certain number of people to a certain degree," he said.

He also said it would take "a lot of other things" besides the basic law to restore confidence in the territory.

Britain and China had been unable to agree on the details of the basic law and have been negotiating behind the scenes before this week's round of talks, the final session on the document, concludes tomorrow.

The final draft is to be completed by the end of the five-day plenum for ratification by the Chinese government in March.

Wu told reporters the mainland-dominated group overseeing political affairs agreed to propose several amendments to the existing draft.

He said the number of directly elected seats in the territorial legislative council, known as Legco, will be increased to 20 in 1997 from 18. The figure represents 30 per cent of the legislature and is four seats short of Britain's latest proposal.

Wu said the 20 seat number was agreed without a vote by the majority of drafters. Asked whether there were proposals for a higher number of directly elected seats, Wu said, "No — because that seems to be the agreement."

There has been widespread speculation that Britain and China already have hammered out the details of the basic law, and Hong Kong drafters appeared resigned to the figures handed down for a final vote.



Philippine soldiers in full battle gear watch a basketball game Feb 16. (Reuter wirephoto)



Filipino students belonging to the leftist 'Kaduna' hold anti-US placards during a demonstration in Manila on Feb 15. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Abduction claim dismissed

## Setback for Imelda

NEW YORK, Feb 16, (UPI): A judge yesterday rejected a request to unseal secret documents that defence lawyers argued would support a claim that former Philippines First Lady Imelda Marcos and her late husband were kidnapped and brought "involuntarily" to the United States.

The ruling by US district court Judge John Keenan marked a setback for Imelda, who is seeking to get federal racketeering charges against her dismissed based on the abduction claim.

In denying the request, Keenan said defence lawyers failed to prove that classified government documents would bolster the claim that the Marcoses were kidnapped by US military forces and taken to Hawaii after Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in February 1986.

Although Keenan has not yet ruled on the motion to throw out the charges against Imelda, the judge said the abduction claim was "completely belied" by a June 8, 1988, letter sent to president Reagan by the former Philippine leader.

In that letter, the judge noted, Marcos wrote how "we came to the United States at your invitation" and went on to state that "Imelda and I are grateful to you for the hospitality you extended to us more than two years ago."

"This is hardly the language of a kidnap victim," the judge said in his 10-page ruling.

The Marcos letter was made public last year when prosecutors tried to discount the abduction claim originally raised on the couple's 1986 and 1987 federal income tax returns.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Death penalty extended:** Singapore intensified its anti-drug campaign Thursday by extending the death penalty to cover traffickers in cocaine, opium and marijuana.

Execution by hanging is now mandatory for anyone convicted of trafficking, manufacturing, importing or exporting more than 30 grammes (1.06 ounces) of cocaine, 500 grammes (17.6 ounces) of marijuana, 200 grammes (7.05 ounces) of hashish and 1.2 kilograms (2.6 pounds) of opium. Under the new law, possession of those amounts is equated with trafficking.

"We have contained the drug problem but it has not been eradicated. Drugs are still quite readily available in the region," said Poh Geok Ek, director of the central narcotics bureau.

Before the law was amended, the death penalty applied only to people convicted of trafficking in more than 15 grammes (0.5 ounces) of heroin and more than 30 grammes (1.06 ounces) of morphine.

■ **Stripper-politician gets jail:** Hsu Shao-tan, Taiwan's stripper-turned-politician, was sentenced on Friday to three months in prison for making a pornographic movie, court officials said.

Under Taiwan law, sentences of under six months can be settled by paying a fine — amounting in Hsu's case to only 8,100 Taiwan dollars (\$310 US) — instead of serving the time. Hsu did not appear in court for the sentencing.

She admitted appearing in the movie but said the nude scenes were not of her body.

Hsu narrowly lost a race for a seat in parliament in December elections. One of her campaign slogans was "Nipples against knuckles."

She is still awaiting judgement in another case brought after she took off her clothes in front of the legislature. (Reuter)

■ **Seal Sofia ties:** South Korea will establish formal diplomatic relations with Bulgaria when its

foreign minister visits Sofia next month, government officials said Friday.

Officials of both countries signed a protocol on diplomatic relations in Sofia on Thursday and agreed to establish formal diplomatic ties next month, they said.

South Korea approved a similar protocol with Czechoslovakia last month.

South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Joong plans to visit Sofia and Prague in mid-March to sign formal agreements to open relations with the two East European countries. (AP)

■ **Malaysia won't apologise:** Malaysia will not apologise to the world for laws that require the hanging of drug traffickers, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Thursday.



Jackson meets Mandela

US Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson met Nelson Mandela on Thursday and said the national hero's relationship with South Africa's president was crucial to the country's future.

"I think President De Klerk and Nelson Mandela have started a relationship which could be the key," he said.

Jackson (second from left) met Mandela for 45 minutes at the tiny home in the black township of Soweto where Mandela has decided to live since being freed from 27 years in jail on Sunday.

"I wish Martin Luther King could have been here for this moment," Jackson said, referring to the legendary civil

rights campaigner.

De Klerk's decision to free Mandela is aimed at breaking the political deadlock between South Africa's white minority and the disenfranchised black majority.

Mandela said on Thursday he had never seen a facsimile machine and would like to have a look at one.

Jackson said Mandela was gently criticising media stories saying he enjoyed a luxurious life in the last months of imprisonment, including the use of modern communications devices such as fax machine.

Showed with Jackson and Mandela are their wives Winnie and Jacky (extreme right). (Reuter wirephoto)

## ANC-Pretoria dialogue soon

Klerk asked to quit

LUSAFA, Feb 16. (Agencies): The African National Congress, fighting for black majority rule in South Africa, said today it would soon meet President F.W. de Klerk to help create a climate for negotiations.

ANC leaders ended three days of strategy talks, called after De Klerk freed their leader Nelson Mandela from 27 years' jail last Sunday.

The ANC, legalised by De Klerk this month after 30 years in exile in Zambia, said it recognised reforms announced by Pretoria but they had not gone far enough.

The ANC called on Pretoria to release all political prisoners, end a three-year-old state of emergency, repeal repressive legislation, halt political trials and remove troops from black townships.

It said it planned to send a delegation to meet De Klerk as soon as possible, comprising leaders from the Lusaka-based national executive committee as well as those based inside South Africa.

It would be the first meeting between the guerrilla movement's exiled leaders and a South African head of state. No date for the meeting was announced.

The ANC also said it would open offices in South Africa. There was no immediate comment from De Klerk's office.

The opposition Conservative Party charged today that De Klerk was spreading fear among whites with his plans to share power with blacks and called for his immediate resignation.

The right-wing party issued the call after thousands of its supporters marched through Pretoria last night in a major show of strength to demand new elections. Police said today up to 40,000 whites took part in the march.

De Klerk's decision to free black leader Nelson Mandela and legalise the African National Congress guerrilla movement has created fear and uncertainty among South African whites, the Conservative Party said in a statement in its newspaper, Die Patriot.

"With one stroke, great uncertainty about the future has been created. The voters have been lied to too often," the statement said.

"Hang F.W. de Klerk" and "keep South Africa white," said placards carried by protesters as they marched to city hall for a rally at which party leader Andries Treurnicht warned that the government faces a growing white backlash.

De Klerk had betrayed whites "by granting people with revolutionary aims, and who want to enslave others by means of violence, freedom of movement and the right to organise," Treurnicht told the cheering crowd.

The march and rally kicked off the conservatives' campaign to try and force elections to oust De Klerk for freeing Mandela.

Mandela today urged the international community to press South Africa to lift a three-year-old state of emergency and release all political prisoners.

The ANC leader made his call in an hour-long closed meeting, his first with ambassador and senior diplomat of some 20 countries represented in South Africa.

Mandela told reporters after the meeting at a hotel outside Johannesburg that ANC policy demanded all countries break off relations with South Africa in protest against apartheid. But those who chose to remain had a role to play.

"Now they are here, they can do the work of trying to help to normalise the political situation in the country," he said.

Diplomats quoted him as saying they should urge Pretoria to lift emergency rule, which gives sweeping powers to police, and more particularly to secure release of all political prisoners.

Answering reporters' questions, Mandela said he had also appealed to the diplomats to ask their governments to intensify economic sanctions against South Africa.

Mandela said the foundations were almost in place for negotiations between his ANC and South African government.

■ Mercedes-Benz workers have got permission to build Mandela a luxury saloon car — painted red — to show their admiration for the freed South African black leader.

## Co-operate to prevent airline bombings: US

PARIS, Feb 16. (AP): A US presidential panel urged closer Western co-operation yesterday to prevent airliner bombings and called for a tough response to nations sponsoring such attacks.

Ann McLaughlin, former US labour secretary and head of the commission, said at a news conference, a "common purpose exists to combat terrorism" and urged for more sharing of information to protect the travelling public.

US President George Bush created the commission on aviation, security and terrorism last August as a result of the Dec. 21, 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The seven-member panel is travelling through Europe to sound out anti-terrorism policies. The panel arrived in

## Call to keep curbs on SA

Health OK: Mandela

### Top job an honour'

SOWETO, Feb 16. (UPI): Black leader Nelson Mandela said yesterday he would be honoured to become president in a post-apartheid South Africa but that his ambition was only to bring peace to the country.

In his second day of interview since his release on Sunday, the silver-haired Mandela, 71, also conceded he was showing "signs of wear and tear." But he described his health as "reasonably good" and said he was carrying on with his prison life exercise routine.

"My health is reasonably good, but of course I'm not as young as you, and there are signs of old age, you know, signs of wear and tear which we must expect. But subject to that, I'm carrying on with my exercises and I am enjoying them," he told reporters.

Mandela fielded 26 questions during the 30-minute interview in the front yard of his Soweto home shortly after a meeting with rights leader Jesse Jackson.

"It is necessary to maintain continuing sanctions against the Pretoria government until the democratic reforms that African freedom fighter Mandela wants are achieved," said Boutros Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs.

Japan will not relax economic sanctions against South Africa despite a request to do so from Thatcher, the Foreign Ministry said today.

A spokesman said Thatcher had sent a letter to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu earlier this week.

President George Bush can lift US sanctions on trade with South Africa only with the approval of Congress, which he is not likely to get at this time. But there is a question how much difference the sanctions have made.

Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of State for Africa, said that "the legislation we're working under provides for relaxation of sanctions when there is progress. I think we're rapidly reaching that point, but we're not going to make any decisions until we've consulted very closely with the Congress..."

The ANC leader made his call in an hour-long closed meeting, his first with ambassador and senior diplomat of some 20 countries represented in South Africa.

Mandela told reporters after the meeting at a hotel outside Johannesburg that ANC policy demanded all countries break off relations with South Africa in protest against apartheid. But those who chose to remain had a role to play.

"Now they are here, they can do the work of trying to help to normalise the political situation in the country," he said.

Diplomats quoted him as saying they should urge Pretoria to lift emergency rule, which gives sweeping powers to police, and more particularly to secure release of all political prisoners.

Answering reporters' questions, Mandela said he had also appealed to the diplomats to ask their governments to intensify economic sanctions against South Africa.

Mandela said the foundations were almost in place for negotiations between his ANC and South African government.

■ Mercedes-Benz workers have got permission to build Mandela a luxury saloon car — painted red — to show their admiration for the freed South African black leader.

PARIS, Feb 16. (AP): A US presidential panel urged closer Western co-operation yesterday to prevent airliner bombings and called for a tough response to nations sponsoring such attacks.

Ann McLaughlin, former US labour secretary and head of the commission, said at a news conference, a "common purpose exists to combat terrorism" and urged for more sharing of information to protect the travelling public.

US President George Bush created the commission on aviation, security and terrorism last August as a result of the Dec. 21, 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The seven-member panel is travelling through Europe to sound out anti-terrorism policies. The panel arrived in

# Poland gets a bitter pill

Modrow in Warsaw talks on German unification

WARSAW, Feb 16. (Agencies): The prime ministers of Poland and East Germany opened talks today on German unification amid reports the United States and West Germany rejected Poland's request to join proposed talks on the subject.

East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow arrived on a one-day working visit and immediately started talks with his Polish counterpart, Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The government newspaper Rzeczpospolita said Mazowiecki will also raise the problem of the restriction of Poles travelling in East Germany and harassment of Polish tourists in that country.

A Polish government source said Modrow will support Warsaw's effort to be included in proposed talks among World War II visitors — the Soviet Union, the United States,

Britain and France — and the two German states.

But the Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza said Washington "rejected Poland's proposal in an elegant way" to avoid discouraging Mazowiecki before his trip to the United States in March.

The armed forces newspaper Zolnierz Wolnosci said the rejection was a "bitter pill" for Poland.

"For the second time in the history, someone else will decide about us without us," it said in reference to the 1945 Potsdam agreement that fixed European borders following the end of World War II.

Poland lost six million people during World War II and suffered the most ruination of

## Soviets leaving Prague in 10 days

PRAGUE, Feb 16. (Reuters): Soviet troops will start leaving Czechoslovakia in 10 days, the Communist Party trade union daily Prace said today.

The Soviet Union has 75,000 troops and some dependants stationed in Czechoslovakia following a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion in August 1968 which ended the Prague spring liberalisation era under Alexander Dubcek.

The paper said the military pullout would start on Feb 26 and a substantial part of the Russian military force would be withdrawn by May 31.

Prace said the pullout date was agreed at a meeting of Czechoslovak and Soviet experts who started negotiating the timetable and technical details of a troop withdrawal last month.

For many Czechoslovaks now led by a reformist government, the Soviet officers and soldiers are no longer welcome.

Thousands of citizens have demonstrated in recent weeks to demand that the Soviet troops leave at once. In one protest 30,000 massed in Prague shouting "Ivan, go home."

The hardline communist leaders who invited Warsaw Pact troops to throttle the Dubcek-era reforms surrendered power last November after huge street protests.

Czechoslovakia was the first Warsaw Pact state occupied by Soviet forces to open talks on their withdrawal.

It flatly told Moscow it wanted the first contingent to go before free elections in June and the rest by the end of the year.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, yesterday he wants Soviet troops out of Poland "as soon as possible."

The Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki has adopted a go-slow attitude toward Soviet withdrawal, saying the 40,000 troops in Poland should leave only after new security arrangements created for Europe.

But Walesa has insisted the Red Army withdraw this year.

"I will continue activities so that the Soviet troops are removed from Poland as soon as possible," Walesa told reporters at the headquarters of Solidarity's parliamentary caucus, the Citizen's Parliamentary Club.

Referring to suggestions from President Wojciech Jaruzelski and the pro-Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza that the troops help ensure Poland's security against a reunified Germany, the Solidarity union chairman said:

## Ethnic Albanians protest in Kosovo

BELGRADE, Feb 16. (Reuters): Hundreds of ethnic Albanians staged fresh protests today in Yugoslavia's southern province of Kosovo, where 29 people have been killed in riots over the past month. Tanjug news agency reported.

It said some 500 ethnic Albanians marched through Titova Mitrovica towards the town's high school and called for pupils to join them.

The past month's strife has been the worst surge of violence in Yugoslavia since Albanians rioted last March against curbs on the autonomy of Kosovo, part of the country's biggest republic, Serbia.

Ethnic Albanians, who make up 30 per cent of Kosovo's population, demand greater regional autonomy and the resignation of the province's Serbian-controlled leaders.

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# National Day celebrations officially begin today

## Flag hoisting at Green Island

KUWAIT, Feb 16, (Kuna): The country's celebrations of the 25th National Day Anniversary will begin Saturday, Feb 17, with the hoisting of the flag in the Green Island at the sea-front.

Assistant secretary for external information and secretary of the standing committee for celebration of national occasions Ridha Al Faifi said the hoisting of the flag would take place amid official and popular celebrations with the participation of government units and folklore troupes.

Faifi said rescue teams, fire brigades and coast guards would organise marine shows on the occasion.

Recalling statements by Information

Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah, Faifi reiterated that participation of the citizens in the National Day celebration is the most important factor in observing the occasion.

Faifi said the committee had prepared quantities of photos of HH the Amir and HH Crown Prince and Premier in addition to posters and flags for distribution to the public.

### Exhibition

Meanwhile, the Embassy of Kuwait in Brazil inaugurated a week-long exhibition to mirror the Kuwaiti civilisation in particular and the Arabs' in general to

people living in the country.

Minister of culture in the Brazilian Goias state, where the exhibition is currently taking place, said such a cultural event is a unique civilised phenomenon, attracting hundreds of Brazilians to get acquainted with the Arab and Kuwaiti traditions.

She stressed that the Arab civilisation played a prominent role in the maturity of the world's civilisation in general and in Brazil in particular.

The Brazilian minister also highlighted the co-operative spirit of the Arab immigrants who enriched Brazilian civilisation.

For his part, Kuwaiti Ambassador to

Brazil, Faisal Al Gais, said the show is a salute of friendship from the people of Kuwait to the Brazilian people.

### Friendship

The ambassador also spoke about development of Kuwaiti culture and art as well as the role of cultural communication in enhancing friendship and peace among people of the world.

The exhibition, the first of its kind in Latin America, consists of 30 paintings of three prominent Kuwaiti artists, besides pictures and drawings reflecting Kuwait in the past and present.

As part of activities and events designed to celebrate Kuwait's 25th National

Day, a special exhibition on architectural designs from the Mamlik period in Jerusalem was opened here Wednesday.

The exhibition is co-organised by the British Council and the Islamic Artefacts Society (IAC) and is now open for public display at the society's headquarters in Kuwait City.

Many specialists and officials attended the inauguration ceremony which was addressed by the chairman of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij and the Director of IAC Sheikha Hissa Sabah Al-Sabah.

Kuwait National Day will be observed on the 25th of this month.

## Kuwaiti orphanage for Afghan children

### Foundation stone laid

ISLAMABAD, Feb 16, (Kuna): Governor of North West Frontier Province Amir Gulistan Janjua laid the foundation stone of a Kuwaiti-sponsored project of an orphanage for Afghan refugees in Peshawar yesterday morning.

In his speech before a large distinguished gathering at the project site, 12 kilometres from Peshawar city, he thanked the government and the people of Kuwait for taking care of Afghan refugees in an elaborate manner.

Janjua said by financing the Rs 2.5 million orphanage project Kuwaitis had performed a "noble and sacred act." He noted that Kuwait had been continuously supporting the cause of the Afghan people from the very beginning.

The NWFP governor said that both the rulers and the people of Kuwait were true followers of Islamic teachings, especially in their compassion for Muslim people in misery.

This project, aimed at the welfare of orphans of Afghan mujahideen, was a shining example of their practical love for the Muslim people, he said.

Kuwait-based Lajnat Al Dawa Al Islamiah has launched the project, through its regional office in Peshawar, spread over an area of 17,000 square metres on the grand trunk road on the way to Islamabad. The orphanage will accommodate 500 orphans. A provision has been kept for future expansion to accommodate 300 more orphans.

### Representatives

Due for completion in 1992, the orphanage named 'Kuwait Al Khair Orphanage' will, among others, have a block for classrooms and a block for carpentry, tailoring, shoe-making, plumbing, mechanical and technical training besides playgrounds, hostels and administrative block.

Prominent among those who attended the ceremony held at the project site near Nasirpur Colony in the outskirts of Peshawar city were President of Afghan mujahideen interim government Professor Sloghatullah Mujaddadi, Kuwait Ambassador in Pakistan Qasim Gire Al Yaqout, Yemen Ambassador in Pakistan, other Arab diplomats and representatives of United Nations agencies located in Peshawar.

Also present was a group of officials from Kuwait led by Abdul Qadir A. Ajeeb, director of Kuwait-based Baitul Zakat which made a substantial contribution in financing the project through Lajnat Al Dawa Al Sharif (Society of Social Reform).

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Mujaddadi lauded the people of Kuwait "for supporting the Afghan jihad from the very beginning."

"I thank the Kuwaitis for this solid support to Afghan mujahideen," said the Afghan leader, noting that besides this orphanage, Kuwait had set up various other welfare projects in Pakistan for Afghan refugees and mujahideen. These fields included education and vocational training, he said.

The orphans, Prof. Mujaddadi told the distinguished gathering, were the sons of those Afghan mujahideen who fell while fighting a superpower on their soil.

Sheikh Zahir, the regional manager of Lajnat Al Dawa Al Islamiah, based in Peshawar, in his introductory address, said: "We are constructing this project for sheltering orphans of our Afghan brothers who sacrificed their lives. It is our modest contribution towards supporting the Islamic cause. No doubt the problem of Afghanistan is the problem of all the Muslims of the world. We should not leave them alone especially at this time."

### Welfare

The Lajnat representative further said: "These orphans are our children. Their fathers laid down their lives because of us. Afghans were defending Islam on their land on behalf of Islamic Ummah. These orphans are the future of the Ummah and they must be protected and looked after well," said Sheikh Zahir.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Dr Mohammed Saleem, chairman of the Pakistani 'Dawatul Islami Trust Peshawar,' said Kuwait was the leading Islamic state which had done comprehensive work for the well-being and welfare of Afghan refugees and mujahideen in the North West Frontier Province. The Kuwaitis, he said, had established projects like clinics, hospitals, vocational centres, educational institutions and primary healthcare units for Afghan refugees.

"In this way the Kuwaitis are preparing Afghan manpower for the post-independence period," said Dr Saleem, whose trust is collaborating locally with Lajnat in the execution of the project.

## Spate of thefts in Qurain: residents

A NUMBER of Qurain residents have called upon officials to take the necessary measures to prevent incidents of theft in the area.

They added that Asian labourers living in the area rob their houses using screw drivers and breaking windows during evening hours. A local daily reviewed a number of residents in Qurain in order to highlight their plight.

Ibrahim Al Tannak said the large number of Asians living in the area have caused him a lot of problems and harassment. He stated that Asian labourers particularly Chinese live in their houses which they rented two months ago searching for jobs.

He blamed companies and other establishments for not offering this section of manpower decent salaries which makes them steal and in turn reflects on residents. He pointed out that most of the bachelor labourers live in sheds near families. He said that he was forced to deposit all of his money in the bank in order to avoid any incidents he may have been subjected to.

Tannak indicated that most Qurain internal roads lack adequate lighting adding that the area also lacks telephone services. He called upon officials

at the Ministry of Interior to intensify the number of security patrols in the area.

Abdul Ghani Al Mwaili's house was robbed during the afternoon. He came to his house that day and was surprised to see his living room entrance broken. He added that when he got to his bedroom he found his safe wide open and all his papers on the floor, in addition to some blood stains.

He was lucky that his money was not stolen because it was hidden somewhere else. He is sure that the robber watched them until they left the house and used the back fence of the house to get inside. He stated that it is hard to notice such suspicious moves because the area is full of Asian labourers.

He said that one of the officials informed him that there are only four security patrols in the area. He said the area requires stronger security patrolling during late night hours.

Adnan Salih Al Swaisan called upon the Ministry of Interior to intensify its security patrols in the area and demanded contracting companies in the area to control their labourers and to send the extra manpower back to their countries. He stated that the responsibility is shared evenly between companies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said.



Palestinian children's appeal

Palestinian children in Kuwait on Thursday appealed to the Soviet Union, China and France to do their utmost to check the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and prevent Israel from settling the immigrants in occupied Arab territories.

The plea came in memos they delivered today to the embassies of the three countries.

The memo noted that the freedom cause was inseparable, stressed that the Palestinians have the right to return and that no one else was entitled to settle in their homeland under circumstances of occupation.

"The most dangerous thing about the emigration of Soviet Jews is that it comes within the framework of 'perestroika' (reconstruction) and under the US umbrella of man's freedom at a time it closed doors in front of Jew immigrants to force them to head to occupied Palestine," read the memo.

It urged the three countries to exert every possible effort to spur peace process and put pressure on Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territories, recognising Palestinian national rights and stop atrocities against Palestinian people inside the occupied land. Picture shows Soviet Ambassador Ernest Zverev receiving the memo.

Ernest Zverev receiving the memo.

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# Kuwait actively participates in Expolangues

## Computerised system for Arabic displayed

PARIS, Feb 16, (Kuna): For the second consecutive year Kuwait is taking part in the international exhibition of languages, cultures, communications and publishing (Expolangues) held in Paris from 14 to 19 February.

In that forum aimed at bringing together richness of the world's different languages and cultures, high level linguistic research programmes and pedagogical methods, Kuwait together with Morocco

represented the Arab world.

The exhibition was inaugurated Wednesday by the Minister of State for National Education, Research and Sports, Lionel Jospin, who visited the Kuwaiti stand and was received by the cultural attaché in Paris, Abdul Latif Al Bajani.

Jospin expressed his pleasure to see that Kuwait was actively participating in that annual exhibition, and the same satisfaction was voiced by Thierry de Beaucé, the

junior minister in charge of international relations at the Foreign Ministry, who followed the state minister at the Kuwaiti stand.

### System

Bajani said that the information and higher education ministries and the University of Kuwait have helped staff at the Kuwaiti Cultural Bureau in Paris organise the exhibition.

This year, he went on, Kuwait has more

books displayed, notably concerning Arab civilisation and culture, methods of teaching and learning Arabic, and a computerised system to learn Arabic.

There are a total of 250 participants at this 8th expolangues exhibition, representing some 30 countries with about 60 different languages.

Organisers are expecting about 40,000 visitors this year, compared with between 30,000 and 35,000 in 1989.



A lab assistant checks the purity of Perrier at a food inspection department in Rotterdam.

# Yuppie tipple hits troubled times

## Eau Perrier!

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT pulled the fizzy Perrier mineral water from all stores and restaurants Thursday while Health Ministry laboratories began tests to determine whether supplies to Kuwait had been contaminated.

The move comes after the French company announced Wednesday it was withdrawing its familiar green bottles from markets around the world after the discovery of contamination by a toxic solvent.

While Kuwait Municipality inspectors were making rounds of the supermarkets last week the Health Ministry appealed to international organisations for help. Inquiries were sent to the World Health Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation and the US Food and Drug Administration. Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the planning minister and acting minister of health, has said.

Co-operative societies report that they withdrew the water from shelves before the worldwide recall saying that sales dropped dramatically after the first press reports about contamination in the US.

The Sultan Center in Salma, one of the most popular food retail outlets in Kuwait, which used to sell some 30 cases of Perrier a day, removed the water from its shelves Thursday after being instructed to do so by the Perrier agent and the municipality.

The supermarket, which is now stuck with a stock of between 100 and 175 cases, said Perrier was among the most popular drinks on its shelves.

Raad Stores, the Perrier importers, was not available for comment during the weekend. The Safeway store in Farwaniya confirmed it withdrew the water from the supermarket after a visit by municipality officials.

The Kuwait Meridien, which belongs to the French chain of hotels, also stopped serving Perrier Thursday according to its food and beverage manager who declined any further comment. But another Meridien manager said Perrier was not the hotel's guests' favourite drink. Plain mineral water and fresh fruit juices, he said, were by far more popular.

The Perrier health scare snowballed after small traces of benzene were found in bottles in the US state of North Carolina prompting Perrier to withdraw the water from stores across the US on Feb 9. The recall was extended Wednesday to the rest of the world after reports of contamination in Europe. Announcing the recall at a news conference in Paris, Perrier top executives said it was caused by small amounts of a toxic gas that by mistake passed through a dirty filter contaminating some bottles.

## Purified Perrier gushes back

VERGEZE, France, Feb 16, (Reuters): Pure Perrier gushed back yesterday at the rate of six million bottles a day when its makers rushed to replenish stocks wiped out by a health scare and a global recall.

While Perrier's shares sparked back up on the Paris Stock Exchange, its 3,500 staff at the sacred mineral water source near this southern French town were working at full capacity to replace the 160 million bottles withdrawn from world markets.

"We hope to turn a near catastrophe into a great success," said Perrier spokesman Jean-Pierre Roux. The decision to withdraw all suspect Perrier bottles was "the best demonstration of our credibility that we could have made."

Besides reassuring investors, the move calmed workers in this company town, which locals said would be ruined should disaster strike its main employer.

"Seeing we're producing at full capacity has been the best reassurance for the personnel. Now they're taking on the challenge," Roux said.

The image of purity is everything for Perrier, which broke into the United States and created its biggest export market, wooing the chic, health-conscious and upwardly mobile.

US sales soared from \$51 million in 1981 to \$550 million in 1988. Today, Perrier litre for litre can fetch five times more than gasoline.

Roux, the company's human relations director, said some employees now faced dismissal for neglecting to clean the filters that purify the gas in Perrier. All recalled supplies would be destroyed, including bottles, he said.

Since Roman times, the bubbling spring in the flat, dry Mediterranean land between the cities of Nimes and Montpellier was known as a source of naturally effervescent water.

In an ultra-modern plant, the gas, which emanates from deep volcanic layers and percolates through an underground stream, is separated, filtered to remove impurities, then reinjected into the Perrier at a ratio of 3.5 parts gas to one part water.

When filters were not renewed, tiny traces of benzene built up, eventually creating levels that exceed US Food and Drug Administration safety norms, although the FDA itself said there was no immediate health risk.

Benzene is a naturally occurring solvent which is suspected of causing cancer.

Perrier was withdrawn from markets in the United States, Canada, Japan, West Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands before company chairman Gustave Leven, 75, ordered the total recall.

The only exception to Wednesday's recall order was France where Leven said bottles would only be replaced on demand since the contaminated water still met French safety standards.

But the company backtracked yesterday after government ministers made clear they felt French consumers should be just as well protected as American ones.

The French buy 42 per cent of the one billion bottles sold in some 120 countries every year.

Perrier, a spring blessed by the state since 1863, was bought by Leven from Britain's aristocratic Harmsworth family in 1948, and was then on the brink of bankruptcy.

Perrier now not only taps the water but also makes the distinctive pear-shaped green bottles and the caps and labels that go on them. Roux said these may be altered to show a "clear" sign to show that the water had been bottled after the recall.



Perrier chairman Gustave Leven seen moments prior to announcing world-wide withdrawal of contaminated bottles.

## Bahrain digs for clues to Dilmun

BAHRAIN, Feb 16, (Reuters): Archaeologists in Bahrain are digging through 4,000 years of history to learn more about the people who dominated the ancient trade routes of the Middle East.

Cunes unearthed so far show this palm-covered Gulf island — the site of the world's largest prehistoric graveyard — was once the centre of the bustling Dilmun empire.

Ancient Dilmun's trade network stretched from the Indus Valley in Pakistan to Mesopotamia at the head of the Gulf and Anatolia in what is now Turkey.

Archaeologists say it is becoming clear that 100,000 grave mounds built in Bahrain between 2,200 and 1,700 BC were not used for burial by the Mesopotamians, who considered the island a holy land.

More than a third of the graves have been destroyed by development, but not before many were examined by archaeologists from Jordan, Denmark, France and Bahrain itself.

Now a British team is excavating a 4,000-year-old town near an oasis in the northern part of the island to try to discover how the ancient Dilmun people lived.

"Thanks to all the excavations which have been done so far we know a great deal about how the people died but we know remarkably little about how they lived," said Harriet Crawford, one of the expedition's directors.

"What we do know is that they were very skilled merchants and the island was an extremely important international market place at around 2,000 BC."

### Research

Crawford, who has done extensive research in Iraq, said the Mesopotamians once were dependent on goods shipped from Dilmun.

Clay tablets found in Iraq showed Dilmun supplied them with wood, ivory and precious stones from the Indus Valley, copper from Oman and steatite stone from Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.

Mesopotamian merchants provided wool and grain — a valuable commodity for Dilmun, which imported much of its food.

In turn Dilmun, with numerous freshwater springs, was famous for its dates and "fish-eyes" — an old term for pearls.

An ancient Middle Eastern epic says the warrior Gilgamesh came to Dilmun on a quest for immortality to find Ziasudra, survivor of a pre-biblical flood.

Traces of benzene have been found in samples of the water in the United States, Canada, the Netherlands and Denmark in recent days, but Zimmer said the chemical could turn up elsewhere.

Toxicologists from the university of Clermont-Ferrand said that the amount of benzene found in samples it tested would pose a cancer threat only if consumers drank a little per day for life.

The samples exceeded US standards of 5 parts per billion and European standards of 10 parts per billion, Zimmer said.

French distributors will decide on their own whether to pull their Perrier off the shelves and ask the company for fresh shipments, Leven said.

"The water still tastes good," he said after the conference.

Earlier Wednesday, the water's Dutch importer, Hero Nederland BV, recalled more than a million bottles in the Netherlands.

"Small traces of the stuff, to the extent of about 10 parts per billion, have been found in several samples," tested there in recent days, Managing Director Herman Schievers said.

In Denmark, traces of benzene were found Tuesday in several Perrier bottles, prompting the importer, Peter Heering, and the distributor, Albian Breweries, to withdraw up to 300,000 bottles, Heering said.

About 72 million bottles of Perrier were withdrawn from the US market last week after benzene was detected in tests by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Perrier now not only taps the water but also makes the distinctive pear-shaped green bottles and the caps and labels that go on them. Roux said these may be altered to show a "clear" sign to show that the water had been bottled after the recall.

# New law on Aids carriers, says Awadi

## Prevent prejudice: Mann

KUWAIT, Feb 16, (Kuna): Planning and acting Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi asserted that the number of Aids patients in Kuwait has never exceeded 55 cases and said a new law on dealing with the killer disease carriers in the country will be enacted shortly.

Responding to questions at a massive rally organised at the end of the three-day Kuwait Third International Conference on the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Aids, Dr Awadi disclosed that 47 of detected patients came from outside Kuwait and were sent back to their countries.

He told the rally, which was attended by a crowd of 1,700, including students and cadets, that Aids patients have always been put under close watch and dealt with in absolute secrecy.

"A new law will be introduced within few weeks to deal with carriers of Aids virus in Kuwait," Dr Awadi said. He added the law will stipulate the rights of both the patient and society and the punishment to be imposed on those who deliberately cause the transmission of the virus to healthy people.

The planning and public health minister reiterated that the fatal disease is a global problem and will continue to pose a serious threat to humanity, noting that Aids will also continue to spread as long people abandoned their spiritual values.

He stressed that the public Health Ministry will continue to strictly abide by current protective measures including the Aids blood tests for all new workforce.

The director of Kuwait's contagious diseases hospital Dr Abdulla Al Anzi, speaking in the rally, said the Public Health Ministry has imported a medicine that could prolong lifetime of Aids patient, but would not lead to total elimination of the fatal epidemic.

He said the ministry was about to complete construction of a



Jonathan Mann  
special ward for Aids patients

and another for intensive care to treat carriers of the virus who were in serious condition.

Diana Abou Haider adds: In addition to the epidemics of Aids and infection with its virus, the world today is facing yet another one, that of social, cultural and political reaction to the first two epidemics, said Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the World Health Organisation's Global Programme on Aids.

The international expert who participated in the Kuwait Third International Conference last week, added that this epidemic may be as important to our future as the virus itself because it could threaten to overshadow and overwhelm the first two epidemics by spreading myths and unfounded fears about the disease and by assaulting the rights and dignity of infected people.

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"A society that is prejudiced against people who are infected with the virus or those who might have indulged in behaviour that could lead to infection is doing great harm to itself. So are countries that accused others of spreading the disease in them. It is always easier to blame others and the deeply ingrained ideas that foreigners are bad and we are good should be changed," Mann stated.

He added that a society that is prejudiced against people is a society that is increasing its own danger. "Look at what is happening in this region (the Eastern Mediterranean). There are now over 400 reported cases and we know that the number is greater than that because there is always a problem in reporting the real numbers. The number of infected people is even greater because we know that those who are infected now were infected five to 10 years ago."

### Balance

"It is a very difficult balance we have to achieve between informing people and scaring them," said the international expert. "The only thing we can do is constantly repeat the information as often as possible and in many different ways. There are still people who believe that you can catch Aids by shaking hands."

Mann stressed the need for national policies and programmes against Aids to be based on respect for the right and dignity of infected people because it has been proven that whenever prejudice or discrimination of any kind exist, those who are prejudiced against become much more vulnerable to the disease. "Principles of a successful fight against Aids are: openness, education, support and non-discrimination," he said adding that some discriminatory national policies should be reviewed especially because the fight against Aids will be more difficult in the '90s than it was in the '80s.



Pak minister visits PPC

The Pakistani Justice and Law Minister Mr Iftikhar Hussain Gilani visited the Pakistan People's Club at Misrif.

PPC president Haji Mohammad Afzal Noor and club members arranged a reception for Gilani.

The reception was also attended by Pakistani Ambassador Zahid Saeed. A large number of party members welcomed the minister and other officials at the club office.

A delegation of Kashmiri people also met the minister.

# Saudis behead four for heroin smuggling

RIYADH, Feb 16, (AP): Three Pakistanis and a Somali were beheaded today after Islamic courts convicted them on charges of smuggling heroin.

In separate announcements, the ministry identified the Pakistanis as Gomaa Shahdin Abdul Rahman, Bir Mohammed Thureeb Khan and Malak Aman Sayed Omar Sayed Gollam, and the Somali as Mahmoud Bin Haj Ali.

The four were caught smuggling heroin into the kingdom, with the first stuffing it in the soles of his shoes, and the Somali in a handbag.

The four confessed to smuggling the narcotics into the kingdom, the announcement said.

Two Pakistanis were beheaded in the capital Riyadh and a third in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. The Somali was executed in the Muslim holy city of Makkah.

Each Interior Ministry statement affirmed the kingdom's determination to combat drugs "for the

## GCC-EC co-op

DOHA, Feb 16, (Kuna): Gulf Co-operation Council Secretary General Abdullah Yaqoub Bishara said Thursday night that the scheduled meeting between the six GCC states and the European Economic Community in Grenada next Monday will discuss horizons of co-operation between the two groups.

## EDITORIALS

# ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

A MAN is not old until regrets take the place of dreams  
— John Barrymore US actor (1882-1942).

### Najibullah tightens grip

## Peace elusive as ever before

KABUL, (Reuters): A year after Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan, peace for the battered country of 18 million people remains as elusive as ever.

Defying the predictions of Western analysts, President Najibullah has strengthened his grip on power since the last of the Soviet soldiers supporting him left the country on Feb 15 last year.

But the war against US-backed Muslim rebels rages on, leaving the economy in tatters and frustrating any effort to repair the devastation caused by 11 years of fighting.

"I am not optimistic the war will end soon even if the superpowers agree to stop supplying arms to the belligerents," said one foreign diplomat in Kabul.

Diplomats say neither side is strong enough to win on the battlefield.

The government has remained on the defensive since the Soviet pullout, battling to protect key towns from rebels attacks. But the rebels, attempting to switch from commando tactics to conventional warfare, have suffered major setbacks.

#### Beaten

"Under the present correlation of forces, the government cannot be beaten militarily," another diplomat said.

Kabul has repeatedly proposed a ceasefire, United Nations-supervised elections and a demilitarisation of Afghanistan as the only way to end the conflict.

But the rebels have publicly refused to negotiate with a government that they hold responsible for the deaths of more than one million people and the exile of five million others.

Najibullah renewed his offer of a truce on Wednesday in a televised address to mark the first anniversary of the Soviet pullout.

The rebels fired five rockets at Kabul on Thursday in an apparent rejection of the proposal.

Najibullah's offer coincided with a call by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for the demilitarisation of Afghanistan and a four-power peace conference.

Shevardnadze also proposed a halt to all arms supplies to Afghanistan and a ceasefire followed by the removal of all arms stocks from the country.

An Afghan journalist, who asked not to be identified, said the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan had sown seeds of discord that were plaguing the country. "It will be a difficult task to reconcile" the two sides, the journalist said.

The war is fuelled by extensive military aid to the government from the Soviet Union, which entered Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the faltering Marxist government, and to the rebels from the United States.

#### Relations

Despite improving relations between Moscow and Washington, Afghan government spokesman Mohammad Naqib said recently that the superpowers remained far from agreement on the conflict.

There is diplomatic consensus here that a deal between Moscow and Washington to halt arms supplies would benefit Kabul in the short run or, as one diplomat put it, "until their missiles and air power run dry."

But even if arms supplies cease, both sides are believed to have enough weapons stockpiled to keep the war going at the same level for at least two years.

Few regret the departure of the Soviet forces.

Naqib said there were no plans to commemorate the pullout because sending troops into Afghanistan was a mistake and "you don't celebrate mistakes."

The government is trying to win support by distancing itself from its communist past. Once a staunch proponent of Marxism-Leninism, the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan now claims to be Islamic, nationalist and pro-democracy.

Privately, government officials also agree that the coup which brought the communists to power in 1978 was a mistake. "The timing was wrong because the people were not yet ready for socialism," a senior official said.

"Before the revolution everything was cheap and in abundance," said one government employee. "Now we have no security, no peace, no food, no nothing."

#### Food

In the big cities at least, there appears to be more food than last year because the winter has been relatively mild. And there have been fewer rebel interruptions of a key highway that is Kabul's main lifeline to the Soviet Union.

But in the countryside, United Nations officials report people are starving because of food shortages and a rapid decline in the purchasing power of the afghan.

The currency has plummeted to 500 to the US dollar in the bazaars from 220 one year ago. The official rate is 55 afghan to the dollar.

The average local salary is about 3,000 afghanis a month, good for 12 kg (26.5 pounds) of rice or four kg (8.8 pounds) of mutton in the free market.

Although state workers get coupons entitling them to 50 kg (110 pounds) of rice and four kg of cooking oil every month, not all of them get their full quotas because of shortages.

They are also entitled to four kg of sugar, four bars of soap and 500 gms (1.1 pounds) of tea at subsidised prices.

In Kabul's main carpet and jewellery area, shopkeepers said business was awful. Some traders said the only good that could be said of the Soviet troops was that they had inspired Western diplomats, "our main buyers," to stay.

When the Soviet Army withdrew, the diplomats, concerned about their safety, also packed their bags and left.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1568 — Turkey's Sultan Selim II makes peace with Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II.

1670 — France signs defensive alliance with Bavaria.

1720 — Peace treaty between Quadruple Alliance and Spain signed.

1813 — Prussia's Frederick William II declares war on France.

1852 — Repressive measures are adopted in France, including press censorship.

1897 — Britain rejects Austro-Russian proposal for blockade of Piraeus in Greece.

1916 — British and French forces complete capture of Germany's African colony of Cameroon during World War I.

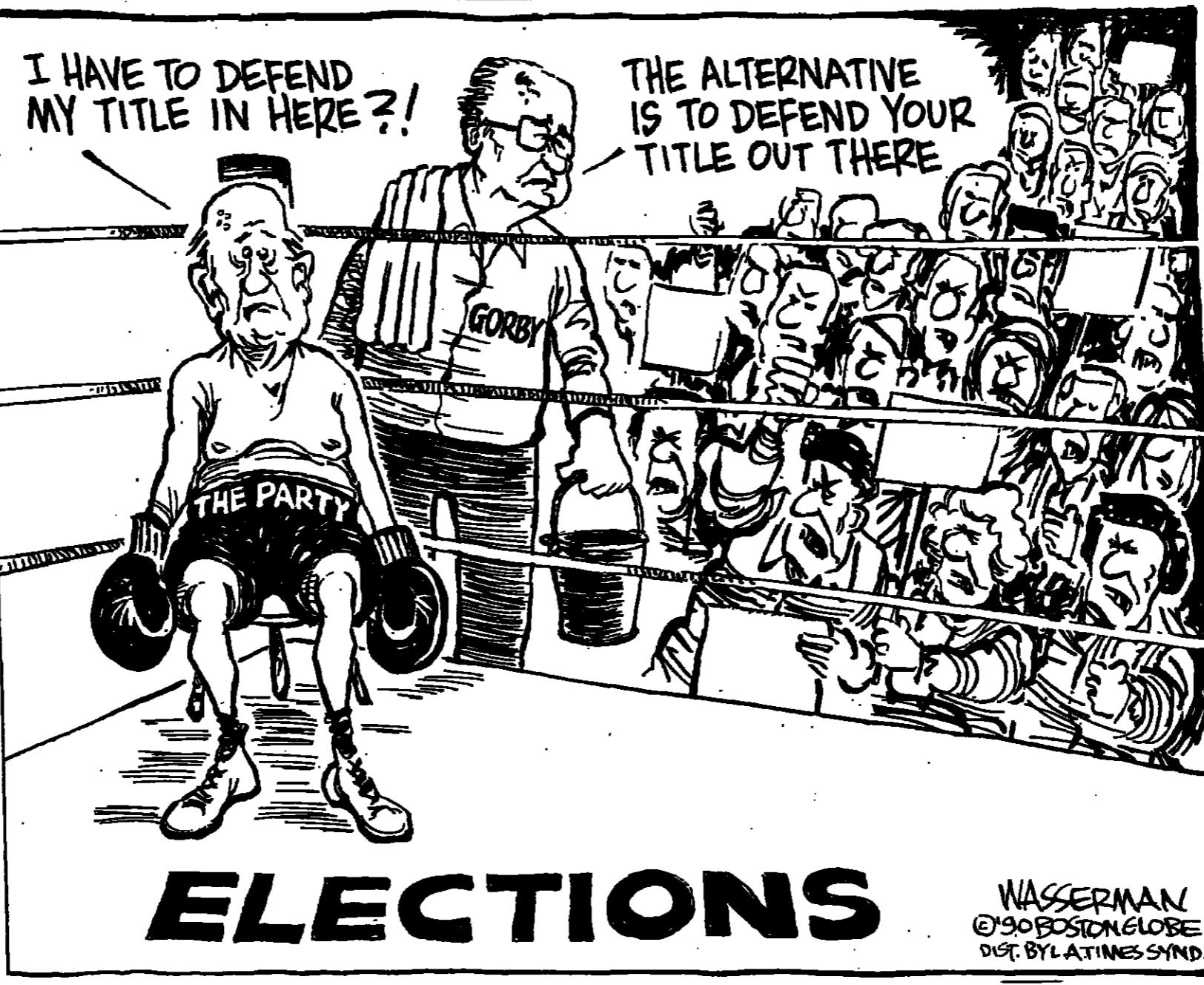
1934 — Belgium's King Albert I is killed while mountain-climbing.

1936 — Anglo-Irish pact ends tariff war.

1944 — US forces attack Japanese at Eniwetok atoll in Pacific in World War II.

1965 — US spacecraft Ranger 8 is launched from Cape Kennedy, Florida, and make crash-landing on moon three days later after sending back more 7,000 pictures.

1987 — Shiite militiamen and leftist alliance of Druze and communists clash in Lebanon's West Beirut for control of capital's Muslim sector.



## Strong spirit

SIR: Three hundred years back when Richard Lovelace was put into English prison cell, he wrote the following verse on the prison wall:

"Stone walls do not a prison make,  
Nor iron bars a cage,  
The spotless mind and innocent  
Calls this a hermitage.  
If I have freedom in my love  
And in my soul I am free,  
Angels alone that are above  
enjoy such liberty."

Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for life for his patriotic activities but finally released after 27 years of imprisonment. During the first decade of his imprisonment, he was made to break the rocks and turn into fine gravel — what a hard labour and harsh punishment! God forbids such punishments even to worst enemies. He went to the prison as an able-bodied man full of youth and vigour but came out of it physically shaken.

If at all he survived to see his freedom, it was only because of his strong spirit that kept him alert. Former President Botha wanted to shatter him and to turn him docile but instead his long years in prison made Mandela more mature in his political philosophy resulting in having more freedom of thoughts. This freedom finally captivated the might of his oppressors to such an extent that his prison cell turned into a conference hall for discussing not only his freedom but also to nullify the crime against humanity called — apartheid.

#### Punishments

There are leaders in the world who think that human movements can be crushed by making the body undergo harsh punishments but it is not always the case. In order to shut his mouth for his campaign against Czarist regime, Bakunin, the anarchist, was made to suffer most imprisonment in the then Russia and because of such cruelty in his prison cell, he lost his teeth turning him unfit to practice his ferocious oratory.

However, his spirit was left untouched that forced him to exercise his movement against Czarist regime by way of writings.

History is full of examples where body suffered but spirit remained intact. After all, it is said by John Milton in his Paradise Lost that "Mind is in its own place and it can make a hell into a heaven and heaven into a hell."

There is still an impression into the minds of the white-skinned people that coloured people are intellectually inferior to them. But let the inflated ego of whites be aware that early civilisation was started in Africa and coloured Asia when Europeans were still living in caves as uncivilised people. Secondly, anthropologists have proved that given equal opportunities, no man is inferior to the other. For example, Martin Luther King Jr., Pele, Carl Lewis, Muhammad Ali, Bishop Tutu, Mahatma Gandhi and many others proved the fact by destroying the fabric of white superiority.

Those who supported Mandela's imprisonment and also those who kept silent over his imprisonment and also of his likes will remain guilty not only in the eyes of humanity but also in the eyes of God.

A. Veronica Fernandes, Safat.

## Help S. Africa

SIR: I am an exiled South African studying in London. My name is Shona, and I implore you to consider this letter well, for it could be important to many people.

This letter is probably going to strike you as completely naive and even idealistic, but it is the result of much frustration at not being able to serve my country better. At present this is the only way I can think of for everybody to contribute to the reform process.

But should you not be able to grant me this massive favour — I would understand, and at the same time ask another favour of you — could you not send this request on to another newspaper's editor? Whatever you decide — I think you in advance.

Now, while it is perfectly true that the change in South Africa can only be achieved internally, so is it equally true that we can learn from the whole world. And that is what this letter is about.

Could you ask your readers to help South Africa? Doing that can be done by them answering these 3 questions:

(1) As you personally understand the situation, how did South Africa find itself in the unique position of having a policy of apartheid?  
(2) What is your perception of life in South Africa today? And most importantly...

(3) What advice would you give to (a) the present government and (b) the future government?

I beg everybody who reads this to answer. From the youngest reader, through youth and church groups, exiles, students and academics, prisoners, factory workers, farmers, poets, famous personalities, old-age pensioners — and do feel free to tell me more about yourself. Please we need the whole world's help here and now.

I promise to reply to every letter received to share the results. I will also forward the letter to our leader, Nelson Mandela and the ANC, as well as to F.W. de Klerk, and anyone else interested.

Shoba Abantu, London, UK.

## Mocking words

SIR: The frequent repetition of two groups of news items in the Arab Times need close review and your attention.

First are the items relating to Islamic laws which are clearly aimed at ridiculing Islam. They are being quoted by Arab Times from other world agencies. Such "Islamic news" are extracted out of their complete context and projected with manipulated words to give them mockable views by the anti-Islamic agencies. This is not new or surprising from them. What is alarming is that such news are selected to be reproduced in these Islamic countries in the same mocking words.

Secondly items like 'sex' news which are finding front page space and bold letter prominence in the Arab Times. These can only generate similar ideas into the growing children here and their morality barriers get more and more flexible by such news.

We are sure that inclusion of such news must be finding Arab Times more enjoyable and agreeable to many of its readers. However, there are many others who consider it a matter of concern. We feel concerned to observe that gradually and definitely the forces set out to distort Islam and corrupt innocent minds are steering their ways into these Islamic countries in the clock of progress.

The suffering caused by destruction of morality by random theologies are evident the world over. Let us prevent, value, and glorify the treasure of Islam in its true meaning and spirit.

Needless to mention that news media plays very important role in moulding the minds of its readers. It must be safeguarded with greater responsibility.

M.A. Jahanmir, Hawaii.

## Kashmir issue

SIR: I am writing this in reply to some comments made by one Dr Haider Mahdi, regarding the situation in Kashmir state of India. Some comments of his are contrary to truth and are questionable.

"Kashmir to Kanyakumari" India is one. This feeling is in the heart of every Indian, regardless of religion or creed.

Indians have a unity in diversity. India is not a religious country. It is a secular state in the true sense. Every religion has the same right and freedom there. Moreover minorities have special constitutional safeguards, and reservations. In Kashmir there is no dominance like Hindu dominance at the writer has alleged in his letter. There is Kashmiri, and Indian dominance only. Moreover Kashmir is given special constitutional status, safeguards etc. considering its geographical importance, and its sensitive border position.

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Kashmir, as well as other states, group, also will have many genuine grievances. To achieve the aim, looting, kidnapping of Muslim ladies and killing is not the way. India is a great, true secular democratic country. By democratic process only a cause is fulfilled.

(Name and address supplied)

## No comparison

SIR: Unfortunately, I happened to read the letter written by one Mohd. Akram, Safat, dated Feb 9, regarding the Kashmiri issue. I do not only strongly object to his views but also would like to mention that he is a fanatic who does not know what is really taking place around him. I'm sure he has never tried to go deep into the actual problems of Palestinians, instead he has tried to accuse a press.

I fail to understand why being one of the reputed presses in Kuwait, Arab Times has spared that much space for a matter which is childish.

I would like to remind this gentleman that the Palestine problems can't be compared with the Kashmiri issues. It has got a gulf of difference in all levels.

A. Mundakkal

K.C.C.

Salimya.

## Great news

SIR: The release of Nelson Mandela is a great news of the year 1990. Like India's great leader Mahatma Gandhi, Mandela dedicated his life for the nation and I wish that his ambitions are fulfilled in his life time.

H.S. Rao,

Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Reforms to benefit movements

MOSCOW, (AP): The Soviet Union's move toward political pluralism is likely to give a new boost to a variety of broad-based movements known as "People's Fronts." These popular political organisations could eventually become formal opposition parties.

Separate people's fronts exist in most of the Soviet republics and in many of the major cities of Russia. Among the political organisations pressing the Communist Party for reform, these groups have gained some experience, a wide following and electoral success.

In the light of the Communist Party decision last Wednesday (Feb 7) to give up its constitutional claim to absolute political power, the people's front movement appears to be a first step from decades of Communist Party dictatorship to a system for formal political competition.

Since it first arose in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia almost two years ago in their first signs of serious organised opposition to communist rule, the movement has taken in a largely ill-defined mass of people, their local grievances and hopes for a better future.

#### Distinction

Some places, as in Estonia and Lithuania, there is little distinction between the leadership of the people's front and the reform-minded leaders of the Communist Party. Elsewhere, as in the Caucasus republics and in Moldavia, the people's front stands in opposition to the local Communist Party leadership.

Although they do not stand a chance of ousting the communists, such small parties will win some seats in local and republic elections this spring. The communists may be forced into governing coalitions, possibly with a people's

front umbrella uniting reformers among the communists and the new parties.

The Radio Moscow news service Interfax quoted Boris Orlov, an historian and expert on the social democratic movement, as saying social democrats could win 20 per cent to 30 per cent of the vote in the Balts.

Lithuania's Communist Party took the electoral threat seriously enough to break away from the national party in December, believing it could not compete in elections as long as it was tied to Moscow's lead.

The Lithuanian party, led by Algirdas Brazauskas, shares the goals of Sajudis, that republic's people's front — including eventual independence from Moscow. Lithuanian communists learned a lesson from national elections last March, when Sajudis first showed its organisational muscle by gaining election for nearly all of the more than 30 candidates it endorsed.

#### Reverse

Among the candidates it defeated were the republic's president and premier.

# Arabs fail to pay uprising cash

ABU DHABI, Feb 16, (Reuters): The PLO's top financial official appealed to Arab states yesterday for more money to support Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, saying most were not honouring promises of cash made two years ago.

"We call on Arab countries to comply with the (1988) Algiers decision," to fund the uprising, Javed Al Ghusein, chairman of the Palestine National Fund (PNF), told Reuters. "This is the least they can do."

Ghusein said Arab states had paid well under 30 per cent of the sum they had pledged at an Arab summit in Algiers.

The summit endorsed an urgent payment of \$128 million and then \$43 million every month to support the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

More than 800 Arabs and 44 Jews have died in the revolt, now 26 months old.

"We have not received one dollar of the 128 million," said Ghusein, an executive committee member of the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"As for the \$43 million a month, we got less than 30 per cent of that in 1989," he said at his office in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He said only Saudi Arabia (\$6 million a month), Iraq (\$4.2 million), the UAE (\$3 million) and Kuwait (\$2 million) were currently paying the PNF, the PLO's financial arm.

Libya had given \$4 to 5 million a month for eight months in 1988 but nothing in 1989, he said.

Last month however Tripoli began paying \$6 million a month directly to Palestinian hospitals and charities in the occupied territories, he added.

\$43 million a month was the minimum required to cover the basic needs of the 1.5 million Palestinians in the territories, which have been occupied by Israel since 1967, he said.

UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahyan had personally made a payment of \$10 million to the PNF, Ghusein said.

# Mujahedeen reject Soviet plan

Rockets hit Kabul on first pullout anniversary



Afghan President Najibullah (left) smiles on the first anniversary of the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan. Najibullah reiterated that he would not step down from power before proposed elections in a post-war Afghanistan. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Cross-border visits agreed

Iran, Soviet Union sign accord

MOSCOW, Feb 16, (Reuters): The Soviet Union, dogged by unrest in several of its Muslim republics, signed two protocols with Iran to make cross-border visits easier and asked Tehran to help return calm to their frontier, Tehran Radio reported.

It quoted Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi as saying the Kremlin should "treat the people in a prudent and peaceful manner."

Vaezi told the visiting Soviet Deputy Minister for Protocol and Consular Affairs, Boris Chalpin, the agreements were in line with the demands of Soviet Azeris and other Muslims living near the two countries' 1,740-km (1,080-mile) frontier.

Chalpin asked Vaezi for Iran's help to resolve problems of security and stability on the border, the radio said.

Tens of thousands of Soviet Azeris illegally crossed into Iran

after they burned border posts in a series of demonstrations starting on Dec 31.

A similar number of Iranians also went to Soviet Azerbaijan, but Iranian media dismissed reports in Moscow's official press that Azerbaijanis fighting the central government received weapons from across the border.

Tehran Radio on Wednesday urged Moscow not to use violence in Tajikistan, a Muslim republic in central Asia where 37 people were killed in ethnic riots this week. Last month Iran expressed regret about Moscow's use of force in Azerbaijan.

Iran, which sees itself as protector of Muslims around the world, says people in both republics are striving to regain their Islamic identity after President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms ended decades of rigid communist rule.

Iran's growth rate rises: Iran's population growth rate, already one of the world's highest, has risen to 3.26 per cent a year, the Iranian News Agency Irafa said on Thursday.

It said Iran, where abortion is illegal and many Muslim clerics oppose birth control, now has more than 55 million people.

Officials last year voiced concern at an annual 3.2 per cent growth rate revealed by a census in 1986. (Reuters)

# Israeli granny dies

Despite amputation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 16, (Reuters): An Israeli great-grandmother who feared amputating her gangrenous leg would keep her out of heaven died today six days after having the operation, Israel Radio said.

Ruth Trabelsi, 84, an ultra-orthodox Jew of Tunisian origin, initially insisted she wanted to keep her body intact on religious grounds though doctors said she might die unless the limb was amputated.

Divided family members fought at her bedside and the state took the case to court out of concern for her well-being. A judge ruled she should not be forced to lose her leg.

"I am going to heaven on my own two feet," Trabelsi had told the judge.

**Hussein orders prisoners freed:** King Hussein on Friday ordered the government to release 29 convicted political prisoners in a continuing drive toward political liberalisation.

State-run Jordan radio said the king ordered the prisoners "released immediately," but gave few details. Twenty-seven are Jordanians and two are foreigners, it said. (AP) \*

**Egyptian ports reopen:** Alexandria port reopened on Thursday after a two-day closure forced by strong winds and high seas, port officials said.

Ships had been trapped inside the harbour and others were kept waiting outside since the port was closed on Tuesday at 1330 GMT by winds of up to 50 km per hour (31 miles per hour).

The oil terminal of the Suez Mediterranean Arab Petroleum Products Company (Sumeid) at Sidi Kater, 52 km (32 miles) west of Alexandria, was to reopen at 1300 GMT. It had also been closed since Tuesday. (Reuters) \*

**Lebanon snowbound:** Snow covered the tops of Lebanon's mountains in the east and the west areas and closed roads.

Weather reports said today that the temperature that dropped lower than zero degrees in the mountain areas reached three degrees in Beirut.

It added that the cold and rainy weather will continue on all Lebanon and snow will cover areas at 800 metres height. (Kama) \*

**Israel committed to 'VOA station'**

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 16, (UPI):** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said yesterday that he was committed to building a Voice of America relay station in Israel that has been criticised by environmental groups and senior military officers.

Shamir told Malcolm Forbes Jr., chairman of the US board of international broadcasting, that Israel will fulfil its 1987 agreement with the United States to build a VOA transmitting station in southern Israel, Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said.

**Call to revive Iraqi-Syrian front against Israel**

**KUWAIT, Feb 16, (Agencies):** Jordan's Parliament Speaker Suliman Arar yesterday urged President Hafez Assad of Syria to take practical steps to revive the so-called eastern front facing Israel, Radio Damascus said in a broadcast monitored in Kuwait.

"We urge you to take actual steps to remove differences and clear relations, in order to build a unified Arab stand capable of confronting the challenges facing our nation," the radio quoted Arar as saying in a cable to Assad.

Arar also called for closer co-operation between "Jordan, Syria and Iraq in all fields, particularly in the defence field."



Running for safety

A Lebanese vegetable vendor runs for safety at the Museum Crossing, as Christian warring armies fought heavy battle for supremacy. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Turkey ready to co-operate

Euphrates waters

BAGHDAD, Feb 16, (AP): A senior Turkish official said his country is ready to co-operate with Iraq and Syria in utilising water resources of the Euphrates River, according to a published report today.

The state-run weekly Alef Baa (AB) quoted Isin Celebi, a Turkish state minister as saying, "we are ready to set up joint ventures with both Syria and Iraq to make use of the water of the river."

Celebi also suggested halting all arms supplies to the warring sides and suspending all military operations in a step toward demilitarisation of the country.

"Shamir is definitely a cruel man," said the hawkish Sharos, who has vowed to launch a one-man campaign against a government proposal for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Claiming victory over Shamir at a chaotic meeting last Monday of their rightist Likud Party, Sharos told the newspaper: "I still believe I will be prime minister of Israel."

Shamir admitted his resignation in the Lebanon war while defending his criticism of Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's failure to quash a 26-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sharos said the United States was interfering in Israeli affairs by welcoming his cabinet resignation over Middle East peace moves.

"I am a friend of the United States," he told Israel television when asked whether the White House was not overjoyed by his resignation.

Sharos promised to launch an alternative peace campaign on Sunday after quitting the government over its plan for talks with Palestinians.

The retired general told Israeli television he would formally resign at a cabinet meeting on Sunday and then hold a news conference.

An Israeli army expert on Islamic fundamentalism says progress in the Middle East peace process could lead to violent clashes between radical Muslims and the PLO in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sharos said the United States was interfering in Israeli affairs by welcoming his cabinet resignation over Middle East peace moves.

Celebi was sent by Turkish President Turgut Ozal with a letter to Iraq's President Saddam Hussein to alleviate Iraq's fears that Turkey's ambitious irrigation and hydropower plans will affect Iraq's agriculture.

He also conducted economic talks with Iraq's Minister of Trade and Finance Mohammed Madhi Saleh.

The Iraqi news agency said Celebi and Saleh signed a new financial accord but gave no further details.

Israeli military sources said the fighter belonged to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

An adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he was optimistic that Middle East diplomatic moves were heading towards a breakthrough.

Bassem Abu Sharif told Reuters that talks between the United States and the Soviet Union and developments in the Israeli government had breathed new life into the peace process.

Aba Sharif, one of the most moderate figures in the PLO said it now seemed likely the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States would meet before the end of the month.

A Palestinian woman in her fifties was killed in the West Bank northern city of Hebron when an Israeli car ran over her, as Palestinians in the occupied territories continue their popular revolt against the Israeli occupation, reports said yesterday.

Meanwhile Turkish Premier Yildirim Akbulut will travel to Tehran Feb 27 for an official visit viewed as another step in mending ties strained by the neighbour's different approaches to Islam.

Last April the two countries withdrew their ambassadors when Turkey protested Iranian interference in its internal affairs.

Vorontsov noted that the US restrictions on immigrant Soviet Jews were meant to divert the influx of Jews to the occupied Arab territories.

The last meeting attended by delegations from the three countries was held in Damascus Dec 3 to discuss the Turkish cutoff of the river flow.

The independent Sueddeutsche Zeitung said the Krauss-Maffei Company in Munich had applied for permission to deliver about 100 Gepard systems to Saudi Arabia.

The Munich-based newspaper said the sale was approved by the national security council at a recent meeting.

The Gepard systems are outfitted with 35-mm cannons designed to shoot down low-flying aircraft. The systems are mounted on bodies of Leopard tanks.

# West Germany sells weapons to Saudis

MUNICH, Feb 16, (AP): The West German government has approved the sale of Gepard anti-aircraft systems to Saudi Arabia, and deliveries of two strategic submarines to Saudi.

The report did not give a further description of the submarines.

The sale of submarines was approved despite misgivings on the part of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the newspaper said.

West Germany's main opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) has criticised the sales and charged the government is violating laws that ban arms exports to areas of conflict, such as the Middle East, according to the report.

If someone tries to use gunfire against Jews, he will be killed if someone shoots you, you can shoot back," said Moshe Yosef, a leader of the ultra-nationalist Jewish settler movement Gush Emunim. "This is a war."

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek urged today that Israel give up the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to concentrate on absorbing the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to immigrate to Israel.

The absorption in human and material resources needed for the absorption of these immigrants is so vast that it is impossible to continue at the same time to occupy the West Bank and Gaza," the mayor said.

# Israel, Syria exchange 'feelers'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 16, (Reuters): Israel and Syria, its bitterest Arab foe, have exchanged informal "feelers" in a step towards peace. Israeli sources said yesterday.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, asked by a journalist to comment on reports of informal talks between the two sides, possibly on a peace agreement, replied: "I regret to say that it's not true."

The sources, who declined to be identified, said Syria was softening mainly because its key backer, the Soviet Union, had cut arms supplies and urged Damascus to change its diplomatic posture.

"There are feelers for a month or two. There are signs of change in the Syrian approach," one source told Reuters.

In Damascus, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said in a statement: "These reports are baseless. There has been no direct or indirect talks between Syrian and Israeli officials on any level."

An accord between Syria and Israel, who have fought in four Middle East conflicts, would remove a major source of Middle East tension.

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed the area in 1981. Damascus says it must regain the strategic plateau.

The Israeli sources said Moscow had urged Damascus to wake up to the changes sweeping Eastern Europe and other parts of the world and abandon its goal of strategic parity with Israel.

The London newspaper The Independent reported yesterday that envoys of the two countries had held informal talks.

The daily, quoting Arab and Western diplomats, reported the talks fell short of direct formal negotiations but had the approval of both Shamir and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Officials in Israel's foreign and defence ministries denied knowing of the two meetings which the newspaper said had taken place in Austria over the last four months.

The "feelers" emerge at a time when Syria faces an economic crisis, a quarrel in Lebanon, tensions with Iraq and cooler relations with its guardian Soviet ally.

# Moscow asks Israel to stop settling Jews in held areas

MOSCOW, Feb 16, (Agencies): The Soviet Union has called on Israel to stop settling immigrant Jews to the occupied Arab territories and labelled Arab countries as conventional in thinking that the Soviet Union was a totalitarian state capable of solving all problems by imposing restrictions.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov was quoted by Soviet weekly "Moscow News" as saying, "some still did not understand that the Soviet Union is no longer the state they knew some years ago."

Vorontsov noted that the US restrictions on immigrant Soviet Jews were meant to divert the influx of Jews to the occupied Arab territories.

"During the past years, we were accused of imposing restrictions on Soviet Jews emigration and when we cancelled them Washington imposed its own restrictions," he said.

Vorontsov indicated that the Supreme Soviet would pass the new travel law which enables thousands of Jews to reach Israel saying the law ensures the right of travel for all Soviet citizens without exceptions.

He stressed that the Soviet Union would adhere to that law whether the others liked it or not.

Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied territories have threatened to kill any Palestinians who attacked their settlements in protest at Soviet immigration.

"If someone tries to use gunfire against Jews, he will be killed if someone shoots you, you can shoot back," said Moshe Yosef, a leader of the ultra-nationalist Jewish settler movement Gush Emunim. "This is a war."

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek urged today that Israel give up the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to concentrate on absorbing the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews expected to immigrate to Israel.

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## Meet a neighbour

## His most important mission is the spread of Islam

## Majid Al Refai

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

**MAJID AL REFAI**, a 31-year-old Kuwaiti, is in a hurry. Much is wrong with today's world, he says, and somebody has to do something about it.

"I want to be part of that effort, I have no time for rest," he insists.

A staunch follower of Islamic faith and a crusader at heart, Majid aspires to leave his mark in different spheres of life, the warfront in Afghanistan, banking and finance and lives of individuals.

With several degrees from the prestigious American Purdue University, good understanding of the Western lifestyle and Eastern traditions, and boundless energy, Majid, has already made a difference.

Under his chairmanship, the Lajnat Al Daawa Al Islamiyah, a multimillion charity organisation, has saved lives of thousands of Afghan refugees and mujahideen.

A chemical engineer-turned-banker he is a fervent promoter of Islamic banking which, he says, has dealt away with usury. He is about to set up an investment company to be based in Luxembourg and run on Islamic principles.

But perhaps his most important mission is to spread Islam, bring back those who have "strayed" and enlist new followers.

The Muslim spirit, he says, has eroded over the past 2,000 years, but is now on the mend.

"Unlike the Europeans and Americans whose development peaked when they were far removed from Christianity, Arabs prospered when the practice of Islam was at its peak," he explains.

Articulate and knowledgeable Majid delivers his convictions with eloquence not entirely unlike that of American TV evangelists.

His blue eyes and strong American accent, inherited from his American mother, cannot distinguish his identity as Arab Muslim. But they do make him more interesting, even controversial.

Revered by some Muslims for his Islamic zeal, Majid is less popular among liberal Kuwaitis.

What earns him respect in one group is his undoing in another. And statements such as "I have two wives and won't stop at that number" do not endear him to some Muslim women, let alone

the Western.

But he insists that he is "bicultural" because "I understand the East, I understand the West, and I can live with both without renouncing my beliefs."

However, he leaves no doubt as to where he truly belongs.

"If you don't stick to Islam you will end up in a gutter" is his message to the faithful and warning to non-believers.

Having been born and bred in the US, ("I sang in a church choir before I ever went to a mosque"), Majid feels particularly fit to explain Islam to Westerners.

Islam, he says, is powerful and possessive religion, it tells you how to live.

"Ten commandments are not enough. They tell you thou shall not commit adultery, but what do they ask him to run another mile?"

Banking is not the only area of conflict in Western and Islamic practices. The two worlds have traded accusations over social issues with Muslims blaming the Western lifestyle for social ills such as crime, drugs and divorce.

Although Majid selects effective examples from the West to portray its "decadence" he admits that Arabs are equally guilty of poor conduct and harmful habits. He is anxious to draw

brought the Third World countries down on their knees" he says.

To preclude misuse of funds the Islamic banks do not loan funds but instead buy equipment and material for projects. They are engaged in a continuous process of buying and selling and profits from such transactions are distributed among depositors. The Islamic financial institutions have much more sympathy for those facing a liquidity crisis.

Describing the Western banks, he contends. Demands for increased interest payments from the debtors he said: "The man is dying and what do they ask him to run another mile?"

Islam, he says, is powerful and possessive religion, it tells you how to live.

"Ten commandments are not enough. They tell you thou shall not commit adultery, but what do they ask him to run another mile?"

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the line between Arab traditions and practices, and Islam.

The issue of women and their position in the society has been a traditional subject of dispute between Muslims and Westerners.

"Women in the West are treated like animals. That is why they rebelled, they have to challenge the men" he says contrary to the Western perceptions. Majid contends that in Islam women are given their identity, they are protected and respected. "They have the right to retain their name after marriage, to inherit property and to vote, although the right to vote is still denied in many Arab countries."

In fact, Majid says he holds women in higher esteem than men. "They are as smart as men, but more honest, kinder and not as domineering as men" he claims. "This is what makes them good converts."

But none of these qualities are sufficient to make woman a leader, says Majid.

"Man is a leader but he is not a dictator," he stresses.

Woman's role is clearly defined in Islam, her home and her children are her domain, he says.

But he admits that a man can

easily divorce a woman, and then she can lose her "domain." But the Muslim divorcees are not as destitute as an outsider would be tempted to think.

"Although everyone wants a virgin, divorcees, too, can find a match" says Majid.

The question of polygamy is not a contentious issue for Majid. "It is a progressive solution to a social problem," he says. The "social problem" can be created by wars which leave many women unprotected, woman's inability to have children or if the man is oversexed, he explains.

Critics of polygamy, he says, have yet to recognise that having more than one legal wife is fairer than being married to one and having several mistresses.

As for women, they don't like polygamy but they tolerate it.

"I didn't force my wives to marry me" he says laconically.

The law is black and white on all these issues for a man who tries to live by the Holy Quran. In his view that is not difficult as "Islam never goes against human nature."

But if Islam is perfect, man is fallible.

"We are people, not gods" he concludes.



Majid comforts an Afghan refugee girl at a health unit in Pakistan.

## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

## Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacial Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah, Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

## Hobby Centre

FELT CRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah 14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoigne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

## SOCIAL

Carnival Dinner Nite The Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Rambo Samba dance competition. Group prizes and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

Kuwait Welsh Society ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990, at Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

## Sheheed Day

THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will hold a cultural function on the occasion of "Sheheed Day" on Feb 24, at 6.30 pm at the Bangladeshi embassy premises, Khalidiya. Mr. K. M. Shehabuddin, the ambassador, will be the chief guest.

All Bangladeshis are invited.

## Flute recital

PRESENTED by a group of 4 young Austrian artists at the Kuwait International Hotel on 24th February at 8.00 pm. Winners of the first prize at the Youth Musicians' Festival in Austria, they have recorded for the radio and television in Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland, USSR, Egypt and Austria. In the Terrace Room. Tel: 253000 ext 8039/8040

Oil and Gas Catalogue Show THE Commercial Service of the American embassy announces an "Oil and Gas Catalogue Show" at the Kuwait Continental Hotel during Feb 19-20, 1990, between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm.

Catalogues of more than 200 US companies in the Oil and Gas industry will be displayed. Interested firms are invited to attend.

For further information please contact Abdulla Mejjali, Tel: 3424151 ext 267. Fax: 2407368.

## Robbie in the lobby

ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KD1.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

## Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

## Handicrafts exhibition

UNDER the auspices of the Minister of Interior, Sheikh Salim Al Sabah, an exhibition of handicrafts for young Kuwaiti boys and girls will be opening on February 24 until February 28 at the Kuwait Regency Palace. For more information contact Salwa Al Harbi on 4835398.

## ACOI seven-a-side

ACOI overseas is pleased to announce their first one day football tournament which will be held on the March 2, 1990, at the Sour Grounds.

For further information contact Casimiro D'Souza or Menino Leitao at the Sour Grounds.

## Singapore festival

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dances, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-operation with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel. For reservations, please call 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

## II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd). Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitas. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

## COWBOY NIGHT

EVERY SUNDAY: Enjoy live country music, western decor and hearty ranch food - prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great desserts including mom's apple pie. Visit La Brasserie for a real country hoedown.

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT LA BRASSERIE: Enjoy Chinese cuisine in addition to its lavish daily buffet. Chinese specialities are prepared in front of guests.

## Children's variety show

RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuaibkhan campus, at 6.30 pm.

Tickets on sale now. KD1.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

## Now at the MBH Sports Centre

Life saving course, with Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing shortly.

Ergocycle Fitness Computer tests and courses now available at Messilah.

## Jazzercise/Aerobics/Staying power/Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available.

## Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28 1990. For further information please contact organisers 2441860 Casmir.

## Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

## Sports

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

## 7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds

to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 4765070.

## Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

## Seven a side tourney

ACOI Overseas is pleased to announce their first one day tournament which will be held on the 2nd of March 1990, at the Al Sour Grounds. For further information contact: Casimiro D'Souza or Albert Leitao.

## NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait Pharmacy Fahd Al Salem St. Al Rasheed Pharmacy Ahmad Al Jaber St. Hawalli and Nugea Al Qatani Pharmacy Othman St. Salma Pharmacy Al Samah Pharmacy Salma Al Mubarak St. Fahsheel Eiman Pharmacy Makkah St. Farwaniya Al Taawon Pharmacy Main St. Jahra Nour Pharmacy Matafi St.

## KTV 1

## MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran

9.40 Sabah Al Kher News

9.50 Cartoon serial

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 Sabah Al Kher News

10.40 Sabah Al Kher News

11.25 Wadana Zaman Al Sam: Weekly Arabic serial (part

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Vienna bourse hits new highs

VIENNA, Feb 16, (Reuters): Austria's stock market surged to a record high today as a rising tide of foreign investors seized on business potential in Eastern Europe.

"They are buying up their vision of Europe and are going to hang onto it for a few years to come," said Fritz Schweiger, analysts at Austria's second largest Birozentrale.

Foreign investors believe that many Austrian firms will be able to tap fresh opportunities in post-communist Eastern Europe. Construction firms and breweries have been particularly in demand.

And the first Hungarian share to be listed on a Western exchange is due to join Vienna this year, that of Hungary's Ibusz Travel Agency.

The Vienna bourse index jumped 21.18 points today to an all-time closing high of 687.78, a gain of more than 120 points since the start of the year. Daily turnover peaked at 1.75 billion schillings (\$147 million) on February 5.

Analysts say shares will probably continue to strengthen, underpinned by foreign demand.

"I expect there to be an increase of up to 25 per cent this year from present levels," said Michael Lielacher of Austria's Die Erste Bank.

Schweiger said foreign investors accounted for around 80 per cent of current business.

Five foreign investment funds have already begun to pour what is expected to total around 4.6 billion schillings (\$386 million) into the Vienna Stock Exchange. The largest, run by Japanese broking giant Nomura, is expected to invest 2.1 billion schillings (\$176 million).

## Gulf service upgraded

POLISH Ocean Lines (POL), Poland's national carrier, has upgraded its Baltic — North Continental service to the Arabian Gulf.

It has changed the routing of its twice-monthly services in a bid to increase the load availability for North Continent customers.

The move was announced by POL's regional manager, Mr Tadeusz Kozarski during a visit to Dubai.

It means that one of the scheduled services will load only in Poland and Sweden before calling in the Gulf, while the second will load only at North Continent ports before sailing for the Gulf.

Previously both services loaded in Poland and in North Continent ports which restricted the space available for cargo coming from the continent.

"Because of the new sailing schedule we expect to capture an increased share of the local and European market," said Captain Lars Saferstrom.

## Oapec get new chief

KUWAIT, Feb 16, (Reuters): The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said yesterday it had appointed Abdul-Aziz Al Turki as its new secretary general.

A statement by the 10-nation organisation said Turki, under-secretary general at Saudi Arabia's Oil Ministry, would take up the post on March 1, replacing the current acting secretary general, Abdel Aziz Al Wattari.

OAPEC was formed in 1968 to promote Arab energy projects.

## Turkey to hike air fares

ANKARA, Feb 16, (Reuters): Turkey's state-run airline Thy will raise domestic fares by up to 25 per cent from March 1, a Thy official said.

The price of a single ticket between Istanbul and Ankara rises to 150,000 lira (\$63) from 120,000 lira (\$50).

## East Europe seeks Western cash

Aid requests under study

BRUSSELS, Feb 16, (Reuters): East European states seeking Western cash to help them ditch communism submitted shopping lists of their needs to the world's richest countries today.

Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Romania and East Germany put in bids to join Poland and Hungary in an aid and support

programme from 24 leading industrialised democracies, including the European Economic Community, the United States and Japan.

Their submissions, ranging from Romania's single sheet to a 40-page dossier from East Germany, were considered by a meeting of senior officials of the 24.

The requests included billion dollar loans for Yugoslavia, help with nuclear safety for Czechoslovakia and equipment to make antibiotics, carpets and shoes for East Germany.

An EEC spokesman said the meeting would assess the countries' progress in reforms, take soundings of their needs and discuss political conditions to be

attached to aid. But it would not make any decision on granting aid.

Ministers will have to endorse any extension of the existing programme, although they have in principle agreed to do so for countries that show commitment to reform, pledge free elections and switch to market-oriented economies.

The ministers are not scheduled to meet again until June, but the spokesman hinted some action to support the newcomers might be possible before then. Emergency food and medical needs are being treated separately.

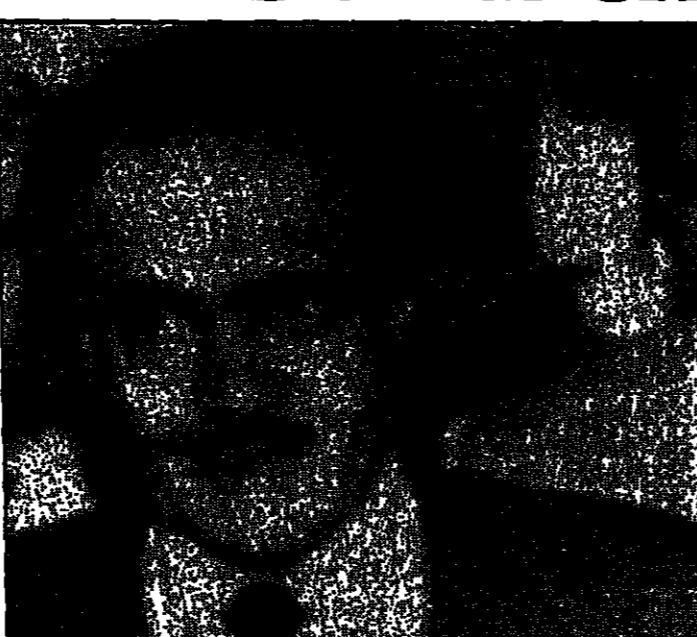
East Germany's memorandum identified what it saw as all the weakness in its economy, and its call for help with

restructuring is aimed almost exclusively at the 12-nation European Economic Community, rather than the rest of the Group of 24.

Most officials and diplomats in Brussels expect rapid moves to German unification after East Germany's March 18 elections. This will effectively mean it gets absorbed into the EEC.

Non-Opec crude output drops

## Nippon to buy more oil from S. Arabia



Hisham M. Nazer

TOKYO, Feb 16, (Agencies): Japan's Nippon Oil Company is planning to double its imports from Saudi Arabia to 160,000 bpd, according to the company's chairman, Yasuaki Takemoto.

Takemoto told reporters that the company, which currently imports 650,000 bpd of crude oil, would buy all 80,000 bpd through Caltex Petroleum Corporation, a joint venture between Chevron and Texaco.

He added that Nippon wanted all of the 80,000 bpd increase to be Arab Berni extra light crude and also wanted to reduce its imports from producing countries with limited export capacities.

He said the advantage of importing Saudi crude through oil majors lay in receiving more super light crude than through a direct deal contract, adding that "majors are better equipped than us to process heavy types of crude."

Quoted by the Reuters news agency, he said Nippon Oil had already decided to boost Saudi crude imports before Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham M. Nazer asked the company and other Japanese refiners to do so when he visited Tokyo recently.

He disclosed that Nazer had asked Nippon to sign a direct deal contract, rather than buy through third parties, saying it would be better for the company in terms of supply security.

Meanwhile the amount of oil produced outside the Opec organisation fell last year by about 790,000 barrels per day, mainly due to lower Soviet and US output, a Reuter survey showed.

The prospect for non-Opec production continues to be moderately gloomy," former US Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger said in an interview.

The Reuter survey is based on information from oil companies, industry analysts and official sources outside of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The administration was the lowest since 1964, when output fell to 7.61 million barrels per day.

Non-Opec output fell about 790,000 barrels per day last year to an average of 33.38 million barrels daily, the survey showed.

Waning US and Soviet production accounted for most of the drop and analysts predict their output will fall further.

US production dropped an average 500,000 barrels per day to 7.64 million barrels, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The 1989 average was the lowest since 1964, when output fell to 7.61 million barrels per day.

to Irani, who has been Occidental's president and chief operating officer since September 1984.

But it was under Hammer that Occidental became one of the top 10 US oil companies, with widespread interests in Europe, Canada, the Soviet Union, the Middle East and Latin America.

Rumours have swirled through Wall Street for years that when Hammer, the seemingly indestructible industrialist, retires or dies, the company would be broken up or sold. In turn, Occidental's stock has gyrated on reports and rumours of Hammer's health.

Industry analysts applauded Occidental's latest move and said they doubted Irani would make any strategic changes when he takes over because he shares Hammer's views.

## Despite cash shortage

## Privatisation drive to continue

TUNIS, Feb 16, (Reuters): A cash shortage in Tunisia is holding up government plans to sell off state-owned companies but the privatisation drive will continue, the civil servant in charge said yesterday.

Mohamed Jebali, director-general of Public Enterprises, told Reuters in an interview that over the past two years the state and state-controlled bank had sold off some 40 companies for a total of about \$100 million.

"That's a fairly fast rate ... I expect this year will be about the same."

He said the main obstacles were that the Tunisian money market was not large enough to absorb major firms and investors were cautious about buying companies which had a chequered history.

Last October state banks abandoned plans to sell off the country's largest bottle manufacturer, Societe Tunisienne de Verrieres, because no one

offered the 5.5 million dinars (96 million) they were asking.

"It showed that the Tunisian market is not capable of absorbing operations of that size," Jebali said.

Many of the privatised companies have a record of losses and the state has had to wipe out their debts before selling them.

"As a result potential investors were afraid it would be difficult to regenerate their potential. They were especially worried about the overstaffing problem," he said.

The sale of the 40 companies had cost 760 jobs but the state had cushioned the impact by providing generous redundancy benefits, Jebali added.

The workers at one of the companies lined up for

sale, domestic appliance manufacturer Le Confort, have been staging strikes and sit-ins at their factory in the suburbs of Tunis for more than a month.

Gold close firmer in London at \$17.75 dollars an ounce after \$14.25 on Thursday.

## Dollar fails to sustain rally

LONDON, Feb 16, (Reuters): The dollar failed to sustain a rally sparked by favourable US trade data and fell back to end slightly lower in Europe today.

West German stocks rose on strong foreign demand as progress towards monetary union with East Germany appeared to falter but the pipeline, which carries around two million bpd of crude, was not damaged and supplies remained unaffected.

Analysts said that the evacuation of an oil storage terminal near the epicentre of the eruption had sparked off the fears.

Nymex heating oil was quoted at \$8.65 cents a gallon, an increase of 1.01 cents, while unleaded gasoline was up 0.75 cent to 60.25 cents.

Meanwhile, in European trading Britain's North Sea Brent climbed 40 cents to \$20.15 while the United Arab Emirates' Dubai light, the main Opec Middle East crude, gained 19 cents to end trading at \$16.59.

## Oil prices surge

## BP profits jump

LONDON, Feb 16, (Reuters): Oil multinational British Petroleum announced record 1989 profits yesterday thanks to higher oil prices and a stronger dollar.

BP said historical cost net profits — which value oil stocks on the basis of what they cost to acquire — rose to £1.74 billion (\$2.94 billion) from £1.21 billion (£2.64 billion) in 1988.

The historical cost profit figure was boosted by profits from oil stocks of \$365 million (\$647 million) and by the sale of some BP subsidiaries.

BP's profits were in line with stock market forecasts, but analysts said the company benefited from a lower than expected tax bill in the final quarter of the year.

"We did all we could last year on buoyant demand and a fall in production by countries outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, although this was offset by output increases by members of Opec," BP said.

In the short term, volatile oil prices would depend on whether Opec can hold down oil production.

"In the longer term, there are signs that demand could grow faster than supply, leading to a general increase in prices," the company said.

On a replacement cost basis — using the current market price of oil to value its stocks — BP's net income fell to £1.36 billion (\$2.50 billion) last year from £1.44 billion (\$2.43 billion) in 1988.

The annual dividend to shareholders rose to 14.9 pence (25.2 cents) per share from 13.5 pence (22.8 cents).

BP sold its oil exploration and production activities well from higher oil prices, the sale of subsidiary companies early in 1989 and the strength of the oil dollar, the currency in which oil is traded.

Exploration and production profits rose to £1.57 billion (\$2.65 billion) last year from £1.36 billion (£2.33 billion).

Oil refining and marketing profits fell back to £732 million (\$1.24 billion) from £769 million (\$1.36 billion) in 1988.

BP's chemical division posted record results, with profits rising to £540 million (\$913 million) from £514 million (\$869 million).

The company said it expected to earn about £1.4 billion (\$2.37 billion) from the sale of parts of the group this year.

In another development Egypt decided yesterday to reduce by 90 cents a barrel the price of all blends of its export crude oil in the second half of February.

The slash, effective today, represents a decrease of almost 10 per cent from Feb 1 in the price of the top-grade Gulf of Suez blend. Oil Ministry sources attributed the slide to overproduction by some Opec shares that has caused a world market glut.

Hassan Ayesh, director of the ministry's foreign sales, announced the new cut after a meeting of the committee that reviews prices every 15 days. Prices were cut by one dollar across the board in the first half of February.

Ayesh said the new prices are \$17.60 a barrel for Gulf of Suez; \$16.75 a barrel for Relyan; \$15.60 a barrel for Ras Red Sea; and \$15.30 a barrel for Ras Ghareb.

He refused to discuss reasons for the reduction.

But sources close to the pricing committee said it was due to a world market surplus, which resulted from overproduction by some members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The sources refused to name the affected countries.

The organisation decided last November to raise the overall production ceiling of its 13 member states by 1.5-million barrels per day to 22 million barrels for the first half of 1990.

In a Cairo newspaper interview the following month, Egyptian Oil Minister Abd-el-Hadi Kandil said he did not expect Opec members to honour their quotas under the new agreement, just as they had reneged on previous commitments.

Kandil criticised Opec for asking non-member countries to commit themselves to agreements that the organisation's own members violated. He disclosed he had rejected an Opec request to support the new ceiling.

Egypt produces about 900,000 barrels of crude oil daily, exporting almost half. Kandil said this volume is being maintained.

## Sweden told to tighten belt

### Austerity measures proposed

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Feb 16, (AP): Sweden plunged into a political crisis yesterday, unable to resolve economic problems created by its own prosperity: too many unfilled jobs and people with too much money to spend.

When the government ordered affluent Sweden to tighten its belt, it ignited an uproar from workers and economists, and united the splintered political opposition.

Last week, the ruling social democrats proposed an emergency two-year austerity programme, including a freeze on wages, prices, rents, local taxes and corporate dividends.

In the face of an unexpected public fury, they withdrew a proposed prohibition on strikes, replacing it with mandatory arbitration.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said he would not stay in office in the package failed to win parliament's proposal.

Critics charged that while Eastern Europe was proclaiming the future of regulation and central control, Sweden was defying the flow of history.

The plan also raised questions about the future of the Swedish model, a system of social welfare and centralised negotiations created in the 1930s. The system is credited with giving Sweden 50 years of labour tranquillity and helping to turn an impoverished agricultural nation into an industrial powerhouse.

While cradle-to-grave welfare is not threatened, the social contract is being torn asunder, the critics say.

The government was spurred to action by a convulsion of labour disputes, including the closure of the nation's banks, now in its third week. The bank closure has dried up retail shopping and threatened to throw industry into chaos.

## Jobless rate dips

**BUSINESS**

**South Yemen sets major wage rises to end strikes**

**ADEN, South Yemen, Feb 16, (UPI):** The government has ordered big wage increases after more than a month of strikes that would have been banned before South Yemen brought in its own "perestroika."

A late-night radio announcement Thursday said the increases would range from 18 dinars (\$52) a month for the lowest wages to 6 dinars (\$18) a month for the highest.

The announcement came after a meeting of the central committee of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party led by secretary-general Ali Salem Al Beidh.

The minimum wage for manual and white-collar workers in the country, mainly concentrated in Aden, the capital and Red Sea Port, is 60 dinars (\$176) a month.

For the lowest category, the increase is 30 per cent. Higher wages are around 150 dinars (\$440) a month.

The strikes began in early January at a research centre of the Ministry of Education and spread to several government offices as well as the Aden refinery, the major printing house and the country's main textile mill.

The vital port facility continued to operate normally, however.

The workers would show up at their offices or plants but do no work except in emergencies, returning to their homes at closing time.

Party officials introduced special squads to maintain operations and avert a total breakdown of operations at sites where strikes occurred.

It was not possible to gauge the impact of the wage hikes as today is the weekly Muslim holiday, but life was expected to return to normal at the start of the work week tomorrow.

Until recently strikes were forbidden but the leadership has been emulating Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika in recent months, especially in the economic sector.

South Yemen became the Arab world's only Marxist-ruled country shortly after it gained independence from Britain in 1967.

The only public demonstrations by workers that people remember in Aden was in the early 1970s when they took to the streets to clamour for wage cuts to help the government face economic dross.

At that time, minimum wages were in the vicinity of 100 dinars (\$294) a month.

South Yemen is moving toward unity with the pro-Western North Yemen and residents began complaining of a rising cost of living when border restrictions were eased between the two countries in recent months.

## US trade deficit dips

**WASHINGTON, Feb 16, (Reuters):** The American trade deficit fell by a wider-than-expected 30.3 per cent in December to \$17.7 billion, helping the United States to its best yearly trade performance in five years, the Commerce Department said today.

For the year, the deficit slid to \$108.6 billion from \$118.5 billion in 1988. It was the lowest shortfall since 1984, when it was \$106.7 billion.

The December figure was the lowest monthly trade deficit in five years since a \$6.7 billion gap in December 1984.

The improvement in the monthly deficit during December exceeded analysts' expectations that it would fall to a \$9.8 billion trade gap from November's \$10.3 billion.

December's unexpectedly good figure lifted the dollar and bonds to brief gains. But both later fell back to show only slight gains.

Imports fell 5.9 per cent during December to \$38.3 billion, as oil purchases from abroad fell despite the bitterly cold month. Exports rose 2.4 per cent to \$31.1 billion.

The November trade deficit was revised down to \$10.3 billion from the previously reported \$10.5 billion but was still the biggest monthly deficit in 1989.

### Currency rates

**KUWAIT, Feb 16, (Kuwait):** Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Buying	Selling
U.S. dollar	0.29014	0.29120
Sterling	0.49091	0.49432
DM	0.17254	0.17375
Sw. Fr.	0.19355	0.19497
F Fr.	0.05072	0.05110
It lira	0.0002327	0.0002338
Jap yen	0.0020307	0.0020186
Bab din	0.76940	0.77286
L.A.E.Dh.	0.78793	0.79163
S rials	0.07079	0.07769
O rials	0.07627	0.08006
O rials	0.75341	0.75689

# Drexel winds down some operations

Investment firm to lay off thousands



Businessmen survey a pile of stock quotation equipment removed from the Drexel Burnham Lambert building in lower Manhattan on Feb 14. The junk bond giant filed for Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code on Feb 13. (Reuter wirephoto)

**NEW YORK, Feb 16, (UPI):** Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc. wound down affairs at many of its subsidiaries Wednesday and put its most negotiable securities holdings on the auction block in the aftermath of the filing for bankruptcy protection.

The Wall Street investment firm was expected to lay off at least 3,500 of its 5,300 employees today in the financial sector's most dramatic cutbacks to date. The fall of Drexel, which led the debt-fuelled takeover frenzy of the late 1980s, was seen as bringing down a final curtain on that era.

Drexel president Frederick Joseph filed a petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy code late Tuesday in Federal Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan. The private investment firm acted after defaulting on \$100 million in loans and beginning to sell off its bond holdings.

The company, which pioneered the use of high-yield, high-risk junk bonds to finance corporate takeovers, had been hammered since September by a precipitous decline in the junk bond market.

Drexel's petition listed total assets of \$3.69 billion and

liabilities of \$2.89 billion, including secured debt of \$75 million, unsecured debt of \$269 million and "other liabilities" of \$2.52 billion. The filing was believed to be the largest bankruptcy in Wall Street history.

Some Drexel operations continued Wednesday, although employees were uncertain about their futures. "We're not quite sure," said one who requested anonymity. "The equity division might be sold off, so we're just waiting to see."

Drexel ceased its over-the-counter trading, a national association of securities dealers official said. A Wall Street source said the firm cleared its Nasd inventory and would not resume trading.

In New York Mercantile Exchange oil futures trading Drexel's accounts and positions were transferred to other members in an "orderly winding down" of its affairs, an exchange official said. Drexel's Canadian branch asked that its membership on the Toronto Stock Exchange be suspended.

Drexel remained active on the New York Stock Exchange, with its Drexel Burnham Lambert Specialist Corp. continued to trade in 33 issues.

A spokesman for the American Stock Exchange said the Drexel specialist in 58 American-listed issues was "dealing as usual."

As on Tuesday, Drexel accepted only liquidation orders for all-cash transactions on the sugar and cocoa exchange in New York. The Chicago Board of Trade said Drexel met all financial requirements for commodities trading, but did not specify if Drexel was actively trading.

Wall Street sources said securities dealers and institutional investors were picking up Drexel's stock of government and agency securities — the most negotiable part of its entire investment portfolio. But questions remained as to how it would dispose of its devolved junk bonds.

Markets were calm in the aftermath of the company's collapse. Most financial analysts said there was no reason to fear a wider crisis.

"I think they slipped below the waves without a ripple," said Roger Craig, a fixed-income portfolio director for Banc One Asset Management Corp. in Columbus, Ohio. "It's a non-event except for the junk (bonds)."

A White House spokesman

said Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady "continues to keep in touch" with the Federal Reserve Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission, which oversaw Drexel's operations.

A Fed spokesman defended the central bank's decision not to take measures to rescue the firm. "Our role isn't to save a private corporation," he said. "Our role is to make sure the financial markets aren't disrupted."

Drexel's investment and government securities subsidiaries were not included in the bankruptcy filing. Wall Street sources said it was probable that Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. and Drexel Burnham Lambert Government Securities Inc. would go out of business once their assets were liquidated.

But analyst Gary Hovis of Argus Research said he believed the holding company had a chance of emerging from bankruptcy "a viable but very slimmed-down firm," built around its government securities unit.

Drexel had a 1989 loss of about \$40 million due to legal costs incurred in a federal investigation of alleged insider trading. In 1988 it agreed to pay \$650 million in penalties to settle

federal changes.

Most concern focused on Drexel's considerable junk bond holdings, which were not thought likely to attract many buyers. Ironically, though, the junk bond market that Drexel played a chief role in launching

flailed as its former mover and shaker floundered.

Business professor Marshall Bloom of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania offered one explanation. "In some ways there was an over-

hang over the market because of the (legal and other) problems Drexel was having, and that has been removed," he said.

But there were no takers and as Drexel's credit dried up, the firm was unable to continue normal trading.

### Contractors seek govt compensation

## Jordan to unify exchange rates

### Debt rescheduling pact

**AMMAN, Feb 16, (Reuters):** Jordan has signed debt rescheduling agreements with France and Austria in line with its accord with government creditors grouped in the Paris Club.

A French diplomat said an agreement signed on Monday covered rescheduling of interest and principal payments due in 1989 and 1990 on treasury loans of \$5.5 million and on government-guaranteed commercial loans of \$129 million.

Repayments are spread over 10 years with five years' grace starting in 1991 during which only interest will be paid. Interest charged on treasury loans will be three per cent and on commercial loans at OECD -agreed commercial rates.

The rescheduling covers the principal and interest that was due in the first half of 1989 and the principal and 50 percent of the interest due in the second half.

The diplomat said Jordan and France signed a separate repayment facility to reschedule over three years \$12.5 million of short-term loans for military and other purposes.

Jordan signed a rescheduling agreement with Austria this week on \$13.5 million in payments of government and state-guaranteed loans, the official news agency Petra said.

It said the accord rescheduled principal payments due in the second half of 1989 over 10 years starting in 1990, including a five year grace period in which only interest would be paid.

The Central Bank also said it would sell dollars at 673 fils and buy them at 671 fils, and instructed banks not to resell dollars for more than 675 fils. The dinar has 1,000 fils.

Since August the Central Bank has maintained an official rate, set yesterday at 659/662 fils to the dollar, for imports of medicine and subsidised food, fees of Jordanians studying abroad and remittances of foreign farm workers.

Banks were theoretically free to set their own exchange rates, but the Central Bank made small, periodic interventions and asked banks not to diverge from

the rates it suggested.

In recent months the Central Bank has sought to close the gap between the official and bank prices by allowing the official rate to sink slowly against the dollar and intervening to boost the bank rate, currently 675 fils to the dollar.

Bankers praise the Central Bank's success in stabilizing the dinar, but some worry that it has now overvalued the currency, eroding the new competitive edge of Jordanian exporters.

They say the currency would

be vulnerable if Jordan runs into balance of payments difficulties again, though officials voice confidence that Amman can meet its financing obligations.

In another development Jordan's contracting firms may go out of business if the government does not compensate them for losses caused by the devaluation of the dinar, the head of the contractors association said yesterday.

"Our situation is deteriorating day by day," Ali Abu Ragheb, president of the Jordanian Contractors Association, told Reuters. "We are facing a crisis."

He said the fate of more than 100 firms with public sector contracts was at stake due to the slide in the dinar, which has lost over two-fifths of its dollar value since 1988.

The devaluation had more than doubled the cost of imported construction materials, he said.

"... We would have been eligible for compensation had the government officially devalued the dinar," he said. "But since it was the Central Bank that took measures to regulate the dinar, contractors have to prove their cases in court."

"We could not imagine in the present circumstances a formula for the rescheduling of bank debt that is not at least as favourable as the formula agreed by the club," Trichet said.

By calling forcefully for comparable treatment of creditors, the Paris Club could be setting the stage for a showdown between Poland and its commercial bank creditors, diplomats said.

In practice, banks have often had to wait months or even years for interest payments from hard-pressed debtor countries. But, as Trichet acknowledged, they have never agreed to include in a formal rescheduling agreement the postponement of all interest payments.

Vice-Finance Minister Janusz Sawicki, who led the Polish delegation to the Paris Club talks, expressed confidence that the banks would agree appropriate terms, but he said no date had yet been set for negotiations.

He welcomed today's accord, saying it would open the door to the fresh capital that was indispensable if Poland was to succeed in transforming its economy along market lines after 40 years of communist central planning.

### Poland signs debt agreement

**PARIS, Feb 16, (Reuters):** Poland's Western government creditors gave a vote of confidence today to its solidarity-led government by agreeing to reschedule a record \$9.4 billion of debt payments.

"This is a good agreement that demonstrates a willingness to do as much as possible to help Poland in its efforts," Jean-Claude Trichet, the chairman of the 17-nation Paris Club of official creditors told a news conference.

In another development Jordan's contracting firms may go out of business if the government does not compensate them for losses caused by the devaluation of the dinar, the head of the contractors association said yesterday.

The total includes \$3.4 billion in late payments that were outstanding at the end of 1989 as well as all the interest and debt repayments due until the end of March 1991.

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### Bombay shares

**Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Feb 16, 1990**

	Pr.Close	Open	Close	H

Scotland Yard museum

## Bizarre tribute to police success

LONDON. (Reuter): Scotland Yard's Black Museum is not for the squeamish nor the faint of heart.

Closed to the public, the dimly-lit chamber's grisly exhibits includes bits of victims from one of Britain's most horrific series of murders and the glinting steel used to slice them up.

Death masks of executed criminals stare down at visitors and the ropes by which they were hanged give a macabre atmosphere to Room 101 of London's Metropolitan police headquarters.

Founded last century this chamber of horrors charts 850 cases cracked by "The Met," founded by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 when policing was simpler and justice was harsher.

By far the most stomach-churning display is a bath, cooker, pots and knives used by serial killer Dennis Nilsen to butcher and dispose of many of his up to 18 victims.

"I lose about five visitors a week in here (when they faint)," Bill Waddell, the dark-suited curator tells a small party of guests selected by senior police officers.

Nilsen cut up and boiled his victims then crammed them down sewers. "Any of you cook?" asked Waddell. "Well that's human stock," he said pointing to a glutinous chunk.

A detective visiting Nilsen's bedsit lifted the lid of a pot and found a head.

"Are you always that white?" Waddell asks an increasingly pallid visitor. "If you're going to faint, the collapse in then bath and we won't have to worry about you."

The museum is used to train officers but is also a bizarre tribute to some of the police's most successful cases covering murder, terrorism and forgery.

Painstaking investigations using pathology, forensic science and ballistics are on display as well as some unusual exhibits such as a pane of glass bearing an ear-print that led to the conviction of one man.

Waddell, a trained criminologist who served 30 years in the police force before becoming curator, uses black humour but says the museum is a salutary experience not to be trivialised.

**The faint-hearted are advised not to visit the "Black Museum." Grisly exhibits include victims from one of Britain's most horrific series of murders, and glinting steel used to slice them up—"human stock" and "severed forearms" floating ominously in glass cases and "fantasy weapons." And no one can smile at the end of the tour!**

Sepia photographs from late last century show the disembowelled victims of Jack the Ripper who terrorised London's gas-lit streets and who was never caught.

Other spine-chilling murders detailed include that of John Christie, a necrophiliac, who killed up to seven women.

The cruelty of notorious London gangs of the 1960s is shown by an electric generator used to torture victims. "One gang leader used to nail you to the floor," Waddell said.

There is a vice section complete with whips, spurs, shackles and flogging frame removed from brothels.

### Weapons

In another part of the museum, two severed forearms float ominously in a glass case. They belonged to a suspect who shot himself in Cologne and Scotland Yard asked for fingerprints.

The Germans sent the arms. A typical example of Teutonic efficiency, Waddell smiles.

Also one show is possible the world's smallest murder weapon, a pallet used to kill Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov in 1978 in London contained just 0.2 milligrams of poison.

One glass case illuminates a scribbled note from a London police officer to a special air service colonel which led to the elite regiment storming Iran's London Embassy to end a 1980 hostage siege.

The mangled helmet of a trooper of Queen Elizabeth's Household Cavalry who was killed by an Irish guerrilla's nail bomb in 1982 is a savage reminder of the effects of terrorism.

A collection of bombs spans relatively simple devices, a suitcase with a clock which triggered a pistol to fire into dynamite, to the most advanced explosives used by Irish fighters trying to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Brandishing a US-made Ingram M-11 machine gun taken from a guerrilla, Waddell said it was possible that criminals would soon start to use such powerful weapons.

The museum boasts an arsenal, all of which had been used in the last two years, of pistols, rifles and machetes and one martial arts chain which "could break a neck like a carrot."

### Fantasy

Gadgets include binoculars that shoot spikes through the eyes sent to a girlfriend by a jealous lover, a barbed flail which can tear the scalp off a head and various other "fantasy" weapons first seen in horror films.

Waddell's face clouds at the stand which houses the tunic of a policeman stabbed more than 40 times by a mob at a London housing estate. "They wanted to put a policeman's head on a pole that might and they nearly succeeded."

### Traditional



Traditional toys — no matter how bold — have failed to match the phenomenal appeal of the wildly successful video games that raked up sales of \$2.7 billion last year — equivalent to 20 per cent of all toys sold.



## Weird Al explodes like custard pie on screen

It's the craziest game show to hit television... the pungent Wheel of Fish. And coming soon will be the TV premiere of the muscle-clenching movie Conan the Librarian.

All you have to do sample these off-beat television shows, and the whacky schedule packed with many more, is to tune in to channel 62. And you will find that little outfit in a new movie called *UHF*, which stars Hollywood's hottest, deepest new property.

Tycoons in Tinseltown are already reaching for their cheques as they watch "Weird Al" Yankovic, the new Robin Williams laugh-alike.

Before Al exploded like a custard pie on to the big screen, he penned a number of memorable musical classics. It was he whose parody version of Michael Jackson's Beat it was transformed into Eat it. And Madonna's like a Virgin was newly-minted as like a Surgeon. Queen's another One Bites the dust became a chortling Another One Rides the Bus.

Al was chuckling all the way to the bank, after making seven albums and two award-winning videos. Then it was the turn of the cinema to stand up and be laughed at.

In *UHF*, no star is safe, however big or muscular they are.

Al makes a mockery of Sylvester Stallone a Rambo. For one of the dream sequences, he dons latex rubber muscles — complete with bulging veins, criss-crossed scars and spray — on sweat.

And Harrison Ford's Indiana Jones character is seen in a new light, too.

In the plot a funny thing happens to that television station called Channel 62. George Newman — played by Al — is elated when his Uncle Harvey wins it in a poker game.

For zany George, who has never managed to hold down a job for more than 24 hours, is appointed manager. "Uncle Harvey works on the principle that the station is so bad it can't get any worse.

And, amazingly, George's daffy game shows and off-beat programmes succeed like crazy. His long-suffering girl-friend Teri, played by Victoria Jackson, can't believe it. The audiences, for example, just like going for a spin with that hauntingly familiar *Wheel of Fish*.

But all is not sunshine and laughter as George becomes locked in a ratings battle with a rival station.

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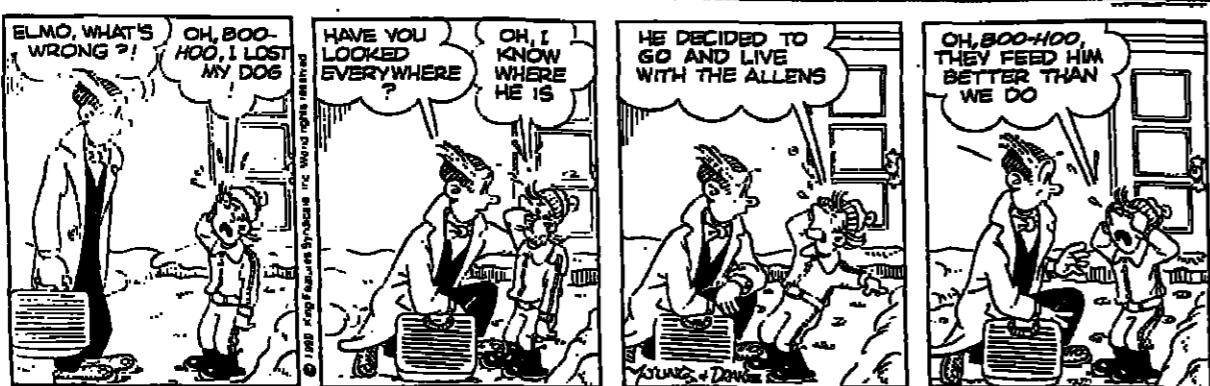
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And, amazingly, George's daffy

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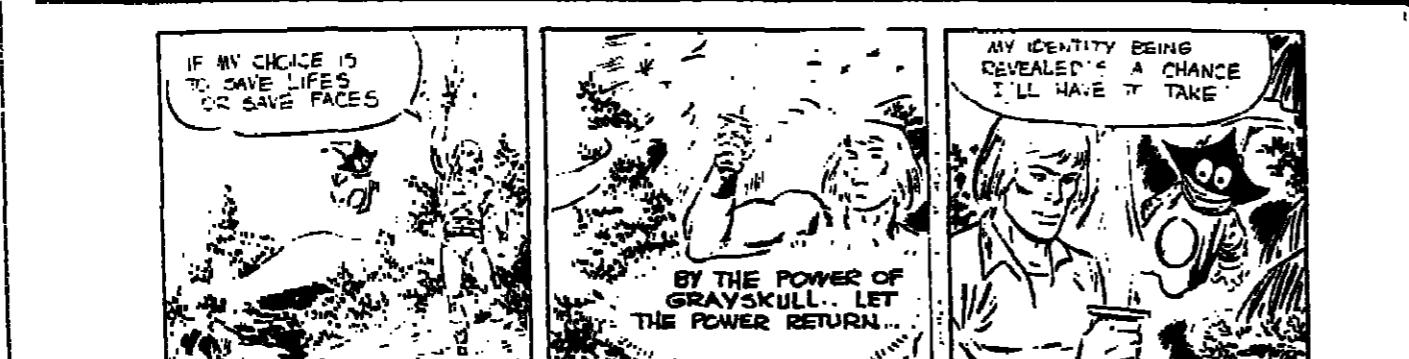
## ANDY CAPP — By Dik Browne



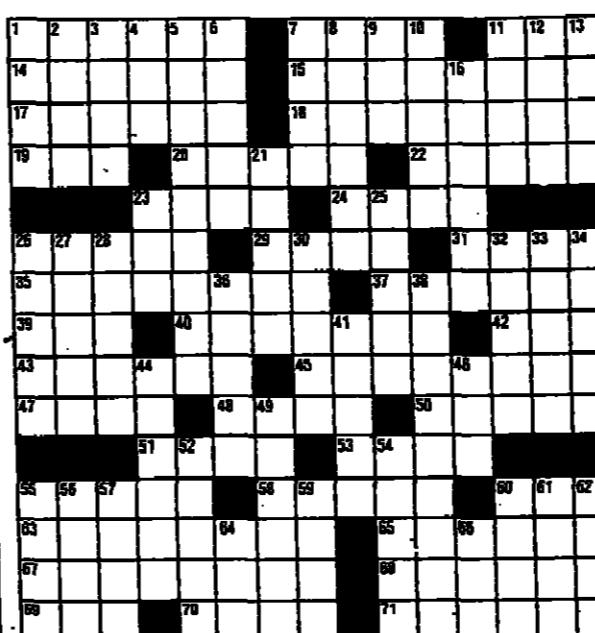
## B.C. — By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN — By G. Forton &amp; J. Shull



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1 Mountain nymphs  
7 Nightingale's symbol  
11 Greek letter  
14 Colorful bird  
15 Pertaining to bees  
17 — brath  
18 Air hole  
19 Dry, as wine  
20 Choreographer-director Bob  
22 Related on mother's side  
23 Neap or ebb  
24 Iowa State site  
26 In the midst of  
29 Narrative  
31 Musical composition  
35 Loftis  
37 Bewail  
39 Day star  
40 Benedict Arnold's crime  
42 Nabokov novel  
43 Box  
45 Poem of fixed form  
47 Stair section  
48 Editor's note  
50 States positively  
51 City on the Arno  
53 Fleet border  
55 Protective garment  
58 Rice dish  
60 Landing craft  
63 In a private session  
65 Publisher  
67 51st psalm  
68 Legally responsible  
69 Shoe width  
70 Soviet news

agcy.  
1 In a wise manner  
DOWN

1 Uncloses, to a poet  
2 Uncommon  
3 Actor Porter  
4 Alder tree  
5 Air battles  
6 Arose  
7 Junior miss  
8 Earnest request  
9 Nero's 1,002  
10 Gay —  
11 Type size  
12 Sentry's command  
13 Arrow poison  
16 Sometimes it's a king's  
21 Bristles  
23 Explosive initials  
25 Honeydew  
26 Donkeys  
27 Hood or Olympus  
28 Part of a pound  
30 Cognizant  
32 Norman

## Vincent

33 Beneath  
34 RBis etc.  
36 Remove wrinkles  
38 Region of S. Spain  
41 Yuccalike plant  
44 Place side by side  
46 Genesis name  
49 Candles  
52 Lifeless  
54 Train tracks  
55 Pinnacle  
56 Ballet bend  
57 Caroline's daughter  
59 March 15th, to Caesar  
60 Grease monkey's job  
61 Transfer property  
62 Three-spotted card  
64 Social affair  
66 Droop

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

WING	BRADS	BANDS
ABAR	REBUT	ALIANA
ROSA	AMATI	RINDO
PLAYMISTY	FORME	LID FREE
TACIT	AOK	ANNUL
EVAN	UNREST	TRI
SINGIN	INTHERAIN	TOT NOTICE ARES
SINORT	ASH	NEED SAT
UMBRELLA	POLICY	AREA GUILE ERIE
DINT	ANNIE	DINT ANNIE RATA
OSTE	SATED	OSTE SATED SEER

## TODAY'S STARS

Aries  
March 21 - April 19Cancer  
June 21 - July 22Libra  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22Capricorn  
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

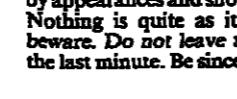
You are all too liable to rely on guesswork and may easily go wrong. Take good care of your personal appearance. Ensure that you take sufficient regular exercise. Be fair.

Taurus  
April 21 - May 20

If you have made a promise do keep it even if it is a little to do so. Avoid eating foods with which you are not familiar for the moment. Do not spend in the expectation of some winnings before you have received them. Be patient.

Gemini  
May 21 - June 20

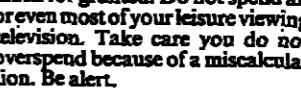
You would be wrong to do anything that is even remotely against the law. And if others do exceed limits that is no excuse for your doing so. Do not neglect a slight infection or it will worsen. Be sensible.

Leo  
July 21 - Aug. 22

A letter for which you have been waiting will not contain the news you had hoped for. However there will be compensations. Do not expect to have all things your own way. Be tactful.

Virgo  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

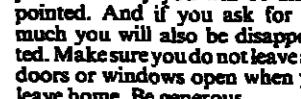
You are liable to worry about something that is unlikely to happen. Instead you should concentrate on what really is happening. Show just a little more interest in what interests your partner. Be moderate.

Scorpio  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

Do not allow a grievance to grow out of all proportion and upset your judgements. And try to show a little more goodwill towards others. You should avoid saying anything you do not really mean. Be contented.

Sagittarius  
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

Start by doing what really has to be done and then relax the pace. If you do not put things back in the right place you may well get into a serious muddle.

Aquarius  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You should not do things in a certain way merely because you have always done them that way: there could well be a better way. You will find a stimulus to your enthusiasm, but try to keep a sense of proportion.

Pisces  
Feb. 19 - March 18

You will have to deal with a person who takes offence easily. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 37. Avoid telling others that you think of them in too blatant terms. And for your part do not be too sensitive to criticism. Be respectful.



"When I shout 'waiter,' I expect you to come immediately."



"Which way to the railway station ... both with sugar."

J. H. Miller

## OREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES OREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♦ K 8 5  
♥ A Q J 9 4  
♦ 7 5  
♣ A Q 7

WEST  
♦ 3  
♥ 10 8 7 6 2  
♦ 10 9 2  
♣ J 9 6 5

EAST  
♦ A Q 9  
♥ 3  
♦ A Q J 8 4 3  
♦ 10 4 3

SOUTH  
♦ K 5  
♥ K 6  
♦ K 8 2

The bidding:  
North East South West

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

clearly warranted. Both West led the ten of diamonds and both Easts covered with the jack, conceding the first trick to declarer's king.

At one table declarer ran the jack of spades. East won the queen and shifted to the singleton heart. A trump to the king lost to the ace and East returned a low diamond. In with the nine, it was not too difficult for West to work out what was going on. He reverted to a heart and East's ruff spelled own one. Pretty defense.

At the other table, declarer turned a diamond at trick two! This simple maneuver broke communications between the defenders. East won and shifted to a heart, taken in the closed hand. Declarer also took the losing trump finesse, but here East had no way to get to his partner for a heart ruff. Declarer was able to win any return, force out the remaining high trump and once the last trump was drawn, claim his game.

Because the key to success lies in sniping the enemy communications, this technique has become known in the trade as the "Scissors Coup."

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SA LUZON VISAYAS AT MINDANAO

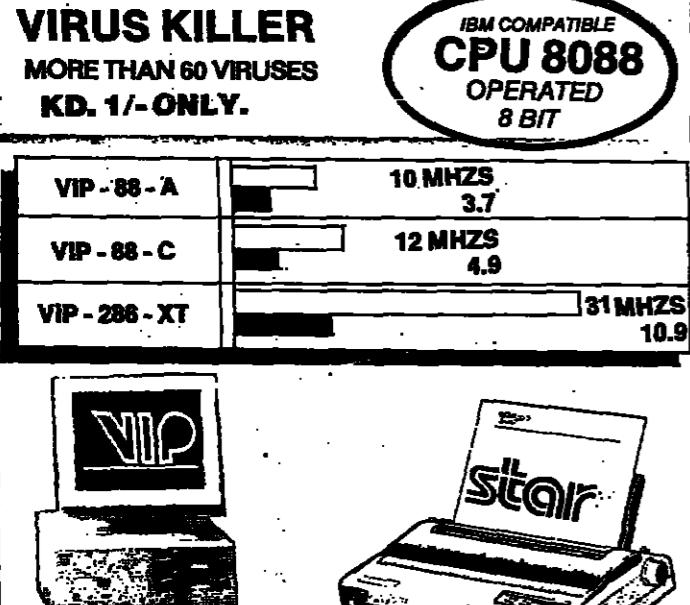
KAMI ANG MAHUSAY NA TAGA-PAGHATID NG MGA BAGAHE NINYO.

TAWAGAN PO ANG MGA TAONG NAG-MAMALASAKIT SA INYO...

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# Lewis set to keep place after impressive cricket debut

POR-T-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Feb 16. (Reuters) - Guyana-born Chris Lewis is set to retain his England place for the second one-day cricket international against West Indies here tomorrow after an impressive debut in Wednesday's rain-ruined opening match.

Lewis, having arrived in the Caribbean only on Sunday to

replace injured fellow pace bowler Ricardo Ellcock, could play in an unchanged team ahead of Phillip DeFreitas.

Pace man DeFreitas is battling to recover from a twisted knee that ruled him out of the first 50 overs match which was abandoned without a result. England made 26 for one from 13 over in reply to West

Indies 208 for eight when the rain came.

England captain Graham Gooch was very pleased with Lewis' performance, "especially he must have been very nervous."

Lewis took one for 30 in seven overs and was an outstanding contributor to the competitive out-

cricket which contained West Indies. He had a superbly-judged catch at long-on with aplomb to dismiss Ezra Moseley.

Gooch said England would have to wait and see about reaction from DeFreitas' right knee, which he hurt while bowling shortly before the start of Wednesday's match.

We bowled too many "four

balls," the skipper said.

Whatever the result of the five-Test series, England have already shown that in the remaining four one-day internationals they could run West Indies close.

Probable teams:  
West Indies - Viv Richards (captain), Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Angus Fraser.

Haynes, Richie Richardson, Carl Hooper, Carise Best, Jeff Dujon, Malcolm Marshall, Ezra Moseley, Ian Bishop, Courtney Walsh.

England - Graham Gooch (captain), Wayne Larkins, Robin Smith, Alan Lamb, Alec Stewart, David Capel, Jack Russell, Chris Lewis, Gladstone Small, Eddie Hemmings, Angus Fraser.

## Hick not allowed to play for Districts

HARARE, Feb 16. (Reuters) - Zimbabwe's cricket officials, resigned to losing star batsman Graeme Hick to England, were disappointed yesterday to learn he would not be playing against the English A team this weekend.

Hick, who is seeking to qualify to play Test cricket for England, had asked the Test and County Cricket Board in London whether could play for Zimbabwe Districts against the touring side in Sunday's one-day match but was advised not to.

"It's a real shame for our point of view," David Elmson Brown, Vice-president of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU), told Reuters.

"But we've lived with the situation for a long time. We realize we've lost him whether he plays for England this year or next year," he said.

Officials were anticipating a big crowd for Sunday's match at Harare South if the Zimbabwe-born Worcestershire batsman took the field in the first game of the England A's 10-match tour.

Hick's absence also highlights Zimbabwe's long-term loss as they strive to join the elite seven Test-playing nations.

The current tour is the first in which Zimbabwe will be participating in an unofficial five-day Tests following the International Cricket Council's decision in July last year to give them a trial period before deciding whether to grant full Test status.

"It would have been wonderful if he (Hick) had supported Zimbabwe in their quest for Test cricket," Elmson-Brown said.

The touring England a cricket side left for Harare as scheduled yesterday after a stomach bug laid low half the team and forced cancellation of their third and last one-day cricket match in Nairobi on Wednesday.

Seven of the 14-strong squad were taken ill, although not seriously, after eating at a Nairobi restaurant on Tuesday.

Team manager Bob Bennett told reporters he regretted the match against the Kenyans a Cricket Association's Chairman's XI had to be cancelled.

The visitors beat Kenya in their first limited overs match by five wickets and then were beaten by the same margin in their second match.

# Pakistan win easily

## Rameez slams unbeaten ton



Waqar Younus appeals for a lbw decision against Sri Lanka's Athula Samarasekera. (Reuter wirephoto)

HOBART, Australia, Feb 16. (Reuters) - Opener Rameez Raja scored an unbeaten century to guide Pakistan to a comfortable six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in their World Series Cup one-day match yesterday.

Pakistan scored 198 for four wickets off 48.3 overs after dismissing Sri Lanka for 195 and virtually assured themselves of a place in the three-match final against Australia beginning next week.

Rameez hit 116 from 150 balls to beat his previous highest score in one-day internationals by three runs.

Rameez and fellow opener Saeed Anwar attacked from the start, putting on a quick 46 before Saeed was dismissed for 17.

Pakistan stumbled slightly when Ejaz Ahmed was out for one ball later but Rameez and Javed Miandad, who scored 42, took control of the match in a partnership worth 105 runs.

Sri Lanka had looked to be heading for a score over 200 when captain Arjuna Ranatunga, who scored 42, and Asanka Gurusingha, who hit 59, put on 73 runs for the fifth wicket.

But Pakistan's bowlers ripped through the middle order and tail to take the last six wickets for 44 runs. Waqar Younus was Pakistan's most successful bowler, finishing with four for 39.

### Scoreboard

SRI LANKA  
Athula Samarasekera lbw b

Younus \_\_\_\_\_ 7

Brendon Kuruppu c Yousuf b

Younus \_\_\_\_\_ 1

Asanka Gurusingha b Younus \_\_\_\_ 59

Hashan Tillakaratne b Imran \_\_\_\_ 19

Aravinda de Silva c and b Aaqib \_\_\_\_ 5

Arjuna Ranatunga c Akram \_\_\_\_

b Ghauri \_\_\_\_\_ 42

Roshan Mahanama c Younus b

b Ghauri \_\_\_\_\_ 24

Asoka de Silva b Younus s \_\_\_\_\_ 1

Rumesh Ratnayake c Younus b

b Akram \_\_\_\_\_ 14

Graeme Labrooy c sub b Aaqib \_\_\_\_ 2

Kapila Wijegunewardene not out 0

Extras (lb-10 w-9 nb-2) 21

Total 198-4-195-4

Fall of wickets: 1-62-25-3-62-4-79-151

16-152-7-158-8-187-9-193.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 9-2-23-1 (4w), Imran Khan 10-0-28-1, Waqar Younus 8.5-0-44-2 (2w), Nadeem Ghouri 10-0-51-2.

PAKISTAN

Rameez Raja not out \_\_\_\_\_ 116

Saeed Anwar b Ratnayake \_\_\_\_\_ 17

Ejaz Ahmed lbw b

Wijegunewardene \_\_\_\_\_ 1

Javed Miandad c de Silva b

b Labrooy \_\_\_\_\_ 42

Salim Malik run out \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Salim Yousuf not out \_\_\_\_\_ 10

Extras (b-1 lb-4 w-4) \_\_\_\_\_ 9

Total (for four wickets) 198-4-188

-48-3 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-46-2-53-3-158-4-166.

Bowling: Graeme Labrooy 9-1-41-1 (2w), Rumesh Ratnayake 9.0-0-47-1 (2w), Kapila Wijegunewardene 10-1-34-1, Arjuna Ranatunga 10-0-37-0, Asoka de Silva 10-0-34-0.



Rameez hit his best one-day score

## India let down by poor fielding

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Feb 16. (Reuters) - New Zealand's Northern Districts profited from poor Indian fielding to end the first day of their four-day match at 265 for five today.

Northern Districts is the bottom team in the current local Shell Trophy competition.

India's position improved in the last five minutes of play when pace bowler Anil Wasson captured two wickets in one over.

The Districts' total included a painstaking 101 by opening batsman Kyle Wealeman and half-centuries by David White and Grant Badburn.

India's first success came 50 minutes before tea, when they claimed Chris Kuggelein, the Districts' captain and one of two Test players in the home side.

The Indians made their toil on a slow pitch harder by dropping four chances, three of them in the slips.

Kuggelein was the first to be let off, although he took much less advantage than Wealeman who, dropped only five minutes afterwards, batttered for 310 minutes.

Bradburn, the most aggressive of the Districts' batsmen, who was undefeated with 67, had his first escape at only 18 when Wasson failed to latch on to an uprise drive off Ajay Sharma.

Off the second new ball, he got away with a very straightforward slip chance to Chandrasekhar, at second slip, off Wasson.

However, Wasson gained some consolation in the last over of the day, having Grant McKenzie caught behind and Mark Bailey lbw to only the second ball he had faced in first-class cricket.

Four members of the touring Indian cricket team, including captain Mohammed Azharuddin, had their wallets robbed while they practiced at Seddon Park here yesterday.

The other losers were Vadakkai Chandrasekhar, Workeri Raman and Kapil Dev.

The thief made off with their cash and dumped their empty wallets in the home side's dressing room, police said.

The players' losses will be made good by the New Zealand Cricket Council, a spokesman for the council said.

The thief also helped himself to the contents of the till in the pavilion bar.

### Scoreboard

NORTHERN DISTRICTS first Extras (lb-6, nb-5) 11

Irwinings 101 Total (for five wickets) 268

D. White b Venkatapathy Raju 55 Doull, P. Neutze.

Fall of wickets: 1-109 2-162 3-237, 4-262, 5-264.

Bowling: Wasson 19-2-61-2, Razdan 19-5-40-0; Venkatapathy Raju 33-9-70-2, Venkataramana 16-3-65-0, Raman 3-0-14-0, Sharma 12-4-30-1.

## Forget stretches Becker

BRUSSELS, Feb 16. (Reuters) - Boris Becker survived a three-set thriller to beat Frenchman Guy Forget 3-6 3-7 6-3 and reach the quarter-finals of the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor ATP Tennis Tournament yesterday.

The West German world number two's next scheduled opponent is Paolo Cane but the Italian Davis Cup player has left Belgium for Italy to nurse a back injury.

Tournament director Adrien Vanden Eede said Cane had taken a plane to Milan after winning his second round match against Spain's Juan Aguilera on Wednesday and was not expected back in Brussels until this evening.

"Let's hope he'll be back in time for his match against Becker," Vanden Eede said.

Cane suffered his back problem early in his match against Aguilera and called for a physiotherapist in the third game of the first set.

Top seed Becker, in only his second match after a three-week break from competition following his quarter final defeat in the Australian Open, became increasingly agitated as the contest progressed.

Becker queried several line calls and on one occasion slammed his racket to the ground. "At least two or three times, the umpire could have made a different call," he said.

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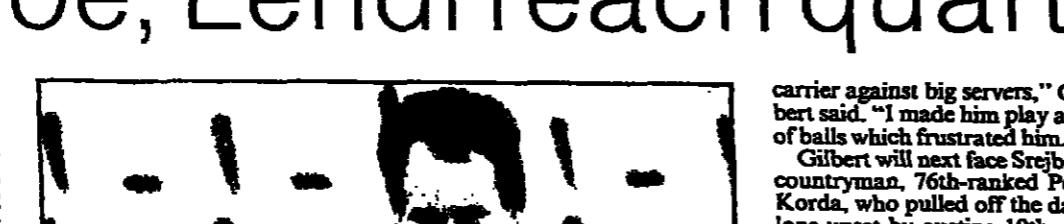
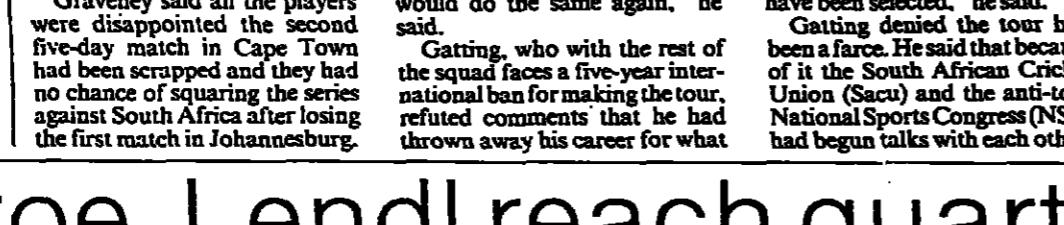
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Boris Becker



## SPORTS

# Unesco honours Fahd for service to sport

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) has honoured Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed with an award for eminent services rendered to physical education and sport.

Sheikh Fahd, who is a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is also the vice-president of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). At the national level, Sheikh Fahd is also the chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the Kuwait

Football Association, besides being involved in several sports clubs and cultural societies.

Sheikh Fahd's hobbies include writing poetry in Arabic and horse breeding. A well-known figure in the world of sport, Sheikh Fahd has already received several awards and a citation from the United Nations organisation for his actions in the struggle against apartheid in sport. Sheikh Fahd's two sons have already followed in their father's footsteps by becoming sports administrators. The

Unesco award will be presented to Sheikh Fahd next October.

■ Sam Ramsamy, the chairman of the South Africa Non-racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc) arrived yesterday in Kuwait to take part in the meetings of the IOC Apartheid and Olympic Commission. Ramsamy is a dedicated anti-apartheid campaigner and also advised to the IOC commission. Ramsamy is expected to brief the IOC officials on the latest political developments in South Africa.

Judge Keba Mbaye, vice-president of the International Court of Justice and also vice-president of the International Olympic Committee arrived yesterday in Kuwait for a two-day visit.

Judge Keba Mbaye will be chairing the IOC Apartheid and Olympic Commission meeting scheduled for Monday. The Senegalese judge was co-opted to IOC in 1972 and was the secretary-general of the organising committee of the Friendship Games held in Dakar, Senegal in 1963.

## LOCAL FOOTBALL

## BMW in top gear

BMW Football Club finally found the form that has eluded them so far this season when they beat Bargain House 4-2 in the League Cup.

Captain Steve Kelly admitted to being "deliriously happy" with a convincing win over old rivals Bargain House. "We never stopped running and we put our chances away, BMW, showed great commitment and that was the main difference between the two teams."

The game started with BMW looking a little shaky which was hardly surprising considering the poor performance exhibited by BMW so far this season, and Bargain House punished poor marking when Alan Wild put them ahead after 20 minutes. BMW, now beginning to settle down particularly in midfield, replied immediately with Yoshiaki intercepting a poor throw by Bargain House keeper Ken Denney, and thumping the ball home.

**Easily**

The second half began with BMW chasing and harrying for everything, especially in midfield. Their just reward came when Danny Craft shot them into the lead. Bargain House were not prepared to give up so easily and drew level after pressuring Tony Edwards to pass back to his keeper, who misplacing his kick, hefted the ball (to his dismay) over keeper Jimmy Doherty's head.

The BMW midfield immediately rallied their team and were justly put in front with Yoshiaki making it 3-2. The match was finally put beyond the reach of Bargain House when Bargain House midfielder Karl Royal irresponsibly losing the ball to BMW's Barry Crouchman, who proceeded to spray the ball to his teammate Kelly, which resulted in Kelly delivering a few crosses into the box which was deflected into the net by skipper Dave Gray.

So, finally, BMW register their intention to compete for League and Cup honours by winning the match 4-2. A hard fought game which was well controlled by officials from the Kuwait Indian Football Federation.

## France name soccer team

PARIS, Feb 16. (Reuters): French team chief Michel Platini yesterday left our defender Franck Silvestre and midfielder Marcel Diis from the 18 players who toured Kuwait last month when he named his squad for the soccer friendly against West Germany in Montpellier on February 28.

Young defender Remi Garde of Lyon and winger Pascal Vahirua of Auxerre, who made their international debuts in Kuwait, are retained.

France are unbeaten for almost a year and have won their last four official matches under Platini, who sees West Germany as the sternest test so far to his promising young side.

**Squad:**

Goalkeepers: Bruno Martini (Auxerre), Gilles Rousset (Sochaux). Defenders: Manuel Amoros (Marseille), Basile Bol (Auxerre), Bernard Casoni (Toulon), Eric di Meco (Marseille), René Garde (Lyon), Franck Seuzer (Marseille). Midfielders: Laurent Blanc (Montpellier), Didier Deschamps (Marseille), Jean-Marc Ferreri (Bordeaux), Bernard Pardo (Bordeaux). Forwards: Eric Cantona (Montpellier), Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille), Christian Perez (Paris St Germain), Pascal Vahirua (Auxerre).

## Saudis opt out of Cup

### Kuwait ready to host soccer tourney

NICOSIA, Feb 16. (Agencies): Saudi Arabia has withdrawn its team from the Gulf Cup soccer tournament in the Kuwaiti capital due to "special circumstances" for its decision.

A statement by the official Saudi Press Agency gave no further details of the kingdom's withdrawal from the seven-nation

tournament due to start on Tuesday. "The Saudi Football Association regrets the Saudi team will not participate in the Gulf tournament in Kuwait," it said.

Meanwhile, the director of the organising committee, Mohammed Othman told Kuna yesterday that the committee had completed all preparations that would make the tournament a success.

Mohammed Othman affirmed that the championship's opening which coincides with celebrations of the 29th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day will be patronised by HH the Amir.

The Amir will attend the inaugural ceremony, Othman said, emphasising that no matches are to be played on the opening day to reserve efforts "for making the inauguration an opportunity for Kuwaiti sportsmen and their guests from Arab Gulf countries to express happiness on the National Day."

15,500 school students will take part in the inaugural ceremony and perform an operetta coupled with seven shows to be demonstrated through banners and portraits, telling past and present achievements of participant states.

The songs of the operetta were co-written by the president of the higher organising committee and chairman of Kuwait Football Association Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed and Kuwaiti song-writer Abdul-Latif Al Banayy.

The operetta is to be performed by Kuwait's prominent singers Abdul Karim Abdul-Qadir and Abdullah Rewashed together with a schoolboys chorus as other

students are displaying colourful background-portraits that would concentrate on participant countries' folklore heritage, Mohammed Othman said.

■ In Amman, Sheikh Fahd, in a joint press conference with chairman of the International Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch held last night, said that although he would like to see Kuwait crowned champion of the tournament, his main goal is the success of the gathering.

On Saudi Arabia's sudden decision to withdraw from the tournament, he said that he heard the news, but had not been formally notified. He said he had tried to contact the Saudis to inquire about the reasons for the withdrawal.

Praying Arab trainers in various sports, Sheikh Fahd said that most Arab sports teams rely on foreign trainers due to the shortage of Arab coaches and also the high standard of foreign ones.

On a dispute inside the Kuwait Olympic Committee, he indicated that the issue was on whether to establish a higher council or a ministry of youth that takes care of sports affairs.

Sheikh Fahd also called on the Arab media to practice objectivity and constructive criticism.

Samaranch noted that the IOC was studying Palestine's bid to become a committee member and said that the decision would be made during the coming meeting in Tokyo.

Both Sheikh Fahd and Samaranch affirmed that the IOC will fight steroids use by athletes to boost their performance in competition.

## Oldham hit Hammers for six

LONDON, Feb 16. (Reuters): Andy Ritchie propelled Oldham towards the English League Cup soccer final with two goals in a 5-0 semifinal first-leg drubbing of West Ham on Wednesday.

Ritchie maintained his record of scoring in every round, netting one in each half as Oldham obliged manager Roy Keane in thrashing the second leg against fellow Second Division West Ham into a formality.

Oldham might easily have reached double figures as they made virtually certain of a final appointment against the winners of the clash between First Division rivals Tottenham Hotspur and Coventry. Holders Forest won their home leg 2-1 last Sunday.

Neil Adams opened Oldham's tally in the 11th minute and further goals by Ritchie and Earl Barrett gave the home side a 3-0 halftime edge on their artificial pitch. Rick Holden, Roger Palmer and a second strike by Ritchie completed the rout.

Ritchie has so far succeeded in emulating manager Royle, the former England striker who scored in every round for Manchester City when they won the trophy in 1976.

In the First Division, a last-minute goal by Iain Dowie earned struggling Luton a 2-1 win at Wimbledon.

Luton moved up one place to two from the foot of the table — ahead of Millwall and tailender Charlton — after their victory. Wimbledon's Dennis Wise had earlier equalised Welsh international Kurt Nogans last Sunday.

"I wouldn't think they will relish coming here," West Ham manager Lou Macari said about Everton's chances after the match.

Southampton's 35-year-old mid-fielder Jimmy Case is fighting to recover from a knee injury sustained at the weekend in time for the match against his former employers.

"I would play with a broken leg if I had to. This is one match I do not want to miss," he said. "At my age you never know if it is going to be your last visit to Anfield."

The other First Division ties tomorrow have second-placed Aston Villa away to Second Division neighbours West Bromwich Albion and Crystal Palace at home to Fourth Division Rochdale, enjoying their best ever Cup run.

Troubled Manchester United travel to Second Division Newcastle on Sunday in what could be a giant-killing encounter while Third Division Blackpool also have a chance to cause an upset when they host Queens Park Rangers.

Holders Liverpool host the only all-First Division match in the fifth round of the "Football Association" (FA) Cup tomorrow but it is last year's losing finalists Everton who face the more awesome tie.

While League leaders Liverpool play Southampton, beaten 3-1 by Crystal Palace in the League at the weekend, their City rivals travel to Second Division Oldham, who have not lost on their artificial pitch for 32 games.

"Everyone would expect us to be underdogs because we are against First Division opposition but this is a one-off in the Cup when anything can happen," said manager Jimmy Mullen.

"There are a lot of star players in the QPR team but nobody here is overawed by the opposition," he said, despite Rangers not conceding a goal so far in four FA Cup ties.

Oldham's plastic pitch has often been blamed for their guests' poor performance but Macari refused to use the excuse.

"If we had trained on that for three weeks it would have made no difference. They caught Arsenal and Southampton here as well; it was so one-sided it was unbelievable," he said.

Oldham humiliated League champions Arsenal 3-1 in the fourth round of the League Cup last November while high-flying Wimborne fell 2-0 in their League Cup quarterfinal replay.

Having played all their games at home against lowly opponents to reach the fifth round of the Cup for the first time in 31 years, relegation-threatened Blackpool will have a capacity crowd of 9,000 cheering them on.

"Everyone would expect us to be underdogs because we are against First Division opposition but this is a one-off in the Cup when anything can happen," said manager Jimmy Mullen.

Faldo could take over from Norman as world number one if he wins and the Australian finishes out of top 20. While this is unlikely, the duel over the Huntingdon course should be a fascinating affair.

Faldo said the Masters should not be regarded as a two-horse race. "There are a lot of guys there and we're only halfway through. You have to keep the momentum going and not worry about any particular guy until you get to the crunch on Sunday."

Faldo and Norman, who shot 68s in the first round, were among eight golfers who started four shots behind overnight leader Mike Clayton of Australia.

Clayton finished three strokes off the lead, after a double bogey at the 13th hole contributed to a 74.

Norman notched three birdies in the first seven holes, putting beautifully throughout his round played in hot, windy conditions. He dropped only one shot with a bogey five on the ninth.

"Nobody could fool either one of us," Astaphan said. "I've been there, I know where it's at, I know where it's going," he said.

Efforts to contact Astaphan at his home in the Caribbean island of St Kitts were unsuccessful.

■ The doctor who supplied disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson with steroids is threatening to sue the athlete for failing to pay him for medical treatment, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Dr Jamie Astaphan is demanding \$25,000 from Johnson for medical treatment and \$8,333 from the government to cover travel costs for testifying at a federal inquiry in Toronto into the use of drugs in sport, the Toronto Sun said.

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A padlock prevents entry to the baseball players parking area at the New York Mets' spring training stadium in Port St Louis, Florida, on Thursday. Spring training was postponed after a pay dispute between players and owners of the American baseball clubs. (Reuter wirephoto)

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**Spring training**

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postponed after a pay dispute between players and owners of the American baseball

clubs. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Swimming pool**

Sixty-year-old swimming pool at the Montjuic Park in Barcelona goes down to make room for a new competition swimming pool to be used during the 1992 Summer Olympics. The new swimming pool will host some of the water polo games and diving events. (Reuter wirephoto)

Judge Keba Mbaye, vice-president of the International Court of Justice and also vice-president of the International Olympic Committee arrived yesterday in Kuwait for a two-day visit.

Judge Keba Mbaye will be chairing the IOC Apartheid and Olympic Commission meeting scheduled for Monday. The Senegalese judge was co-opted to IOC in 1972 and was the secretary-general of the organising committee of the Friendship Games held in Dakar, Senegal in 1963.

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# Top E. Germans on drugs since mid '70s, say scientists

EAST BERLIN, Feb 16. (Reuters): Doping has been commonplace in some areas of East German sport for at least 15 years, two East German sports scientists said yesterday.

"It is true that top athletes in power sports have been doping here to boost their training for years. It all started in the mid-1970s," said professor Hermann

Buhl from East Germany's leading sports medicine centre in Leipzig.

"Athletes mainly take drugs, such as anabolic steroids, during training. It has been carefully controlled. Coaches and doctors have known all about it. Some athletes have been forced to take the drugs," Buhl told Reuters.

Allegations that drugs have been

behind East Germany's remarkable success story in Olympic sport have been made before by East German athletes who defected to the West before hardline communist rule collapsed late last year.

The state's top athletes and officials have vehemently denied the claims.

But Buhl's remarks, backed up by a co-founder of the Leipzig Medical Centre,

professor Lothar Pickenhain, are the first allegations of widespread drug abuse to be made by East German sports officials still living in the country.

Buhl works with a team of scientists who research the pressure put on athletes' bodies during training. They have discovered when the human body is best placed to receive medical support.

He said the centre's research helped advise coaches and athletes but the scientists were never involved themselves in the administration of drugs or any medicine.

Pickenhain, who left the Leipzig centre in 1979, said talks with athletes and coaches had convinced him many stars in sports like athletics and swimming were on drugs.

"The majority are doped. I'm convinced of that," Pickenhain told Reuters. "Much went on only during training, not before big events. The Leipzig lab was secret before and we couldn't talk publicly about doping. Now we can."

He added: "It has always been obvious that some athletes took drugs. You only had to look at the large bodies of some of

the women to realize they had taken steroids. Some of them had very low voices too."

East Germany has risen to prominence as one of the Olympic superpowers in the last 20 years. At the 1988 Seoul Games it won the second highest number of gold medals behind the Soviet Union.

# Spain stun England

## Argentina hold Netherlands



Bovender scored two for the Dutch

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 16. (Reuters): Ignacio Escude scored a hat-trick to earn Spain a shock 4-1 victory over England in the World Cup hockey tournament yesterday.

In yesterday's only other game, France beat India 2-1 with a late goal by Christian Vials to give them their first win against former World Cup winners for 25 years.

India's defeat leaves them with one point from three games in Group A and they look likely to finish out of the top eight for the second successive World Cup.

England's defeat after two previous victories leaves them in third place behind West Germany and Pakistan in Group B, the two teams they have still to meet.

After reaching the final of the last World Cup they are now in danger of failing to make the semifinals.

Spain, who had lost their previous two matches, were drawing 1-1 at halftime after England's Sean Kerly equalised Pablo Usosz's opening goal.

Escude, who recently played his 100th international, converted three successive penalty corners between the 42nd and 65th minute.

India took an early lead against France through winger Thobia Singh in the 12th minute.

After French captain Martin Catonnet equalised with a 23rd minute penalty conversion, India had a chance to go ahead again but goalkeeper Pascal Florin saved a penalty from Ajit Lakra.

Vials gave France victory four minutes from time with the sim-

plest of chances set up by Tim Delavenne.

West Germany, Australia and Pakistan today scored their third successive victories to maintain their dominance today.

West Germany recorded their biggest win in the Cup when they beat Ireland 4-0 but were joined at the top of Group B by Pakistan who beat Canada 1-0.

Australia cruised to a comfortable 3-0 win over the Soviet

Union, to give them maximum points and tighten their grip on Group A. The Soviet Union, with one point, are at the bottom.

Australia once again did well with their penalty corners, Michael York scoring in the fifth minute and Greg Corbin in the 60th. In between Neil Hawgood netted an opportunist field goal in the 52nd.

The Germans were not on their best form but still good

enough to outclass Ireland and win a perfect record of 17 wins in 17 encounters.

Outstanding German forward Stefan Blocher forced and converted a 10th minute penalty stroke and scored West Germany's fourth and last goal with a typical burst through the middle of the Irish defence in the 56th minute.

Netherlands dropped a point today when they were held to a 3-3 draw by Argentina. Floris-Jan Bovender put the Dutch ahead in the 5th minute of the first half but the Argentines levelled the match in the 33rd minute through Carlos Genzeyro. The half-time score remained 1-1.

Marc Delissen made it 2-1 for

the Dutch in the first half and

Bovender added to the score

two minutes later. The Argentines however fought back

brilliantly.

Fernando Ferrara pulled one back for Argentina in the 57th minute and Alejandro Doherty got the equaliser in the last minute of the match. Argentina still have only three points from their three games while the Dutch have five.

### Standings

Standings: (tablets under played, won, drawn, lost, for, against, points)

Group A

Australia	3	3	0	0	10	2	6
Netherlands	3	3	0	1	10	6	5
Argentina	3	1	1	1	9	10	5
France	3	1	0	2	4	6	2
India	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Soviet Union	3	0	1	3	3	9	1

Group B

W Germany	3	3	0	0	10	1	6
Pakistan	3	3	0	0	9	4	6
England	3	2	0	1	5	4	4
Spain	3	0	2	1	7	9	0
Ireland	3	0	0	3	1	8	0



All the winners with Sheikh Ahmed (3rd right)

# Adams triumphs twice



Some of the spectators watching the proceedings.

MAGED ADAMS took the honours in the Invitation Tennis Tournament, held yesterday by the Messilah Beach Hotel (managed by Kuwait Hotels Co.) to inaugurate its new tennis courts. The courts were opened under the patronage of Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullatif, governor of the Capital, by Sheikh Ahmed Al Jaber.

Adams' first partner Waleed Saleh to victory in the men's doubles and then joined Anna Strakos to take the mixed doubles title.

Top dignitaries, executives from the National Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Hotel Company were present at the inauguration.

The event was held in co-operation with the National Bank of Kuwait and under the supervision of the Kuwait Tennis Federation. Four ambassadors (of Thailand, Federal Republic of Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia) and a number of top players from Kuwait took part in event which competition was only held for the men's doubles and mixed doubles.

It was a family fun day and the event was held in a relaxed spirit and snacks were distributed freely to the spectators and participants—courtesy of KDD, Beduin Centre, Kuwait International Hotel, Coca Cola, Jaschman & Partners and Mickey Chips.

At the end of the day, prizes and appreciation plaques were presented to ambassadors and companies for their continuous support of the Messilah Beach Hotel activities.

## Holyfield ready to fight new world champion

NEW YORK, Feb 16. (Reuters): Evander Holyfield, number one contender for the world heavyweight boxing title, is ready to fight newly-crowned champion James "Buster" Douglas despite demands by dethroned Mike Tyson for a rematch.

Holyfield had been prepared to step aside to allow a Tyson-Douglas rematch in June under an agreement promising him a fight with the winner, but the Douglas camp has since said that the new champion might not fight again until September.

Holyfield's manager Dan Duva said in a statement that a delay in the next Douglas fight had altered the picture and Holyfield was now ready to face the champion within 120 days, as ordered by the World Boxing Association.

Holyfield has been the number one heavyweight contender for over a year now," Duva said. "He was good enough to step aside and allow Tyson to fight Douglas last week, with the agreement he would fight the winner. He even considered allowing them to fight again in June before getting his shot.

"But if Douglas wants to wait until September to fight again, then Holyfield has no choice but to assert his rights as the number one contender and demand his shot at the title next, within the time frame set by the WBA."

## Lakers sail past Kings

SACRAMENTO, California, Feb 16. (AP): James Worthy scored 20 points as Los Angeles beat Sacramento for the eighth consecutive time.

Wayman Tisdale scored 23 points for Sacramento and Antoine Carr added 17 in his debut for the Kings, who acquired him from Atlanta on Tuesday. Carr scored nine points in the final three minutes as the Kings tried futilely to come back from a 14-point deficit.

Bryon Scott and Magic Johnson had 17 points each for the Lakers, who are now a full game ahead of Portland in the Pacific division.

Warriors 113, Bullets 107

Tim Hardaway scored 24 points and Chris Mullin added 23 as Golden State defeated Washington for a franchise-record 15th consecutive home victory.

### Results

Atlanta	130	Orlando	124
Seattle	103	New Jersey	97
Houston	124	New York	105
Golden State	113	Washington	107
L.A. Lakers	101	Sacramento	92

### Speedbird Trophies

GREAT BRITAIN will play Pakistan in the second of the British Airways-sponsored Speedbird Trophies to be played this season. The match will take place on February 25, Kuwait National Day, at the KOC Grounds, Ahmadi. Play will start at 9.30 am and continue for a scheduled 45 overs per innings.

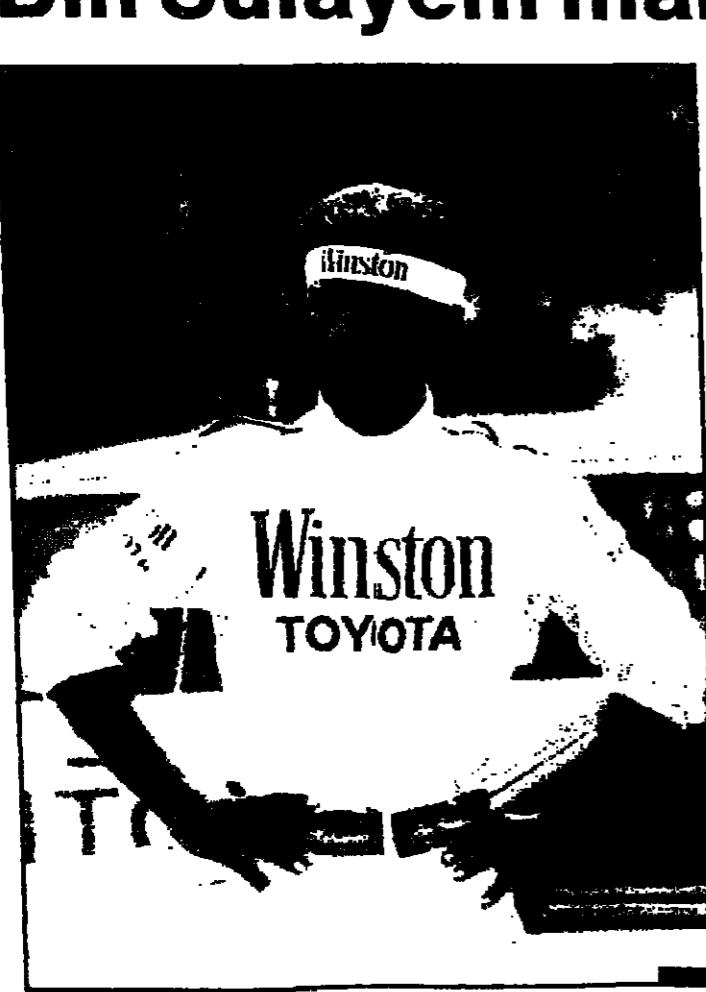
Over the past few years the Pakistan team have held the edge in the encounters. Their strength has come from some very powerful batting. However, the Great Britain team is still smarting from the defeat imposed on them by India in December and will not want a repeat.

As usual British Airways, through the Marketing Manager, Trevor Owen, will be providing prizes to the winning team and awards for the Men of the Match.



Title fight

Five-time world boxing champion Thomas Hearns (left) and Michael Olajide (right) pose for photographers at a press conference in New York. Hearns and Olajide will fight for the World Boxing Organisation's super middleweight title on April 28. (Reuter wirephoto)



Bin Sulayem: scores easy victory

### ARAB TIMES

#### Editor-in-Chief

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Published by:

Dar Al-Seyassah

Editorial Office:  
Airport Road, Shuwaikh,  
P.O. Box 2270,  
13023 Safat, Kuwait.

#### Telex

22332 KT

#### Telephone:

4813999 (main line)

#### Telex:

0040022

#### Telex:

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